

Dear Members of the Michigan Legislature,

The below Kent County Commissioners acting in their individual capacities, urge our Michigan Legislature to amend the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act. Families across our county have lost access to decades of promised home health care services resulting in Kent County families becoming victims a second time through the unintended consequences of the recent no fault reform legislation. This loss of these services has put additional pressure on other health care service systems and our county services to increasingly fill the void created by this loss of services and add burden to the taxpayers of Kent County.

Further, as a part of the reform legislation adopted in 2019 home health care agencies have been forced to accept a 45% rate reduction in reimbursement for services. That reduction is forcing some of our important agencies to close and is pushing many more direct health care workers out of the profession entirely. Our entire community suffers as a consequence.

We are encouraging legislators to act now to assure that families have access to the quality care promised them at the time they entered the automobile no-fault system of Michigan and help stabilize the home health care systems in our County. This crisis could be easily solved by integrating language from our Michigan Workers Disability Agency Statute providing immediate access to the care our residents have lost. This is a solution that could provide for the services and care lost in the recent reform legislation and still provide for cost containment. We believe the data demonstrates this needs to be fixed immediately.

This letter encourages adoption of a narrow amendment to the 2019 Auto Insurance Reform Act that would reinstate critical care for those deprived of the services they were promised, would reduce the risk of the closure of essential community Home Health Care Agencies, and would help stabilize the home health care work force that has been decimated over the past few years.

Therefore, we the undersigned Kent County Commissioners signing in our individual capacities urge the Michigan State Legislature to correct these unintended consequences. Thank you for your consideration.

Mandy Bolter

Stan Stek

Carol Hennessy

Ben Greene

Healy J. Parker

P. J. C. Starn

Melissa LaGrand

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WMA

Dan Burrows

Stephen Wooden

Matt Kallman

Robert Womack

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