



December 9, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
Health Policy Committee
Lansing, MI 48910

Dear Chair Kahle and Committee Members:

On behalf of Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP)—the state’s largest specialty physician organization, which represents more than 4,200 family medicine physicians, residents, and medical students—I am writing to share our opposition to House Bill 5414 and urge you to oppose it as well. This legislation, introduced on October 19, would mandate that all licensed medical professionals take Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses on lead poisoning identification and treatment, as a condition of medical licensure renewal.

Currently, Michigan is one of the states with the highest number of CME credit hours mandated for medical licensure. Under Michigan law, physicians must complete 150 hours of CME each three-year licensure renewal cycle; at least one hour must focus on medical ethics, three hours on pain and symptom management, three hours on implicit bias (effective June 1, 2022), and a one-time requirement on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking. The remaining 141 CME hours required per election cycle may cover a variety of topics, where lead poisoning could be and often is an available education option for physicians.

MAFP continues to support and encourage evidence-based age, gender, and risk-appropriate blood lead screening. MAFP policy states children with certain risk factors should be tested at 12 and 24 months of age, and targeted screening should be used to help identify children who might be at risk for lead poisoning. Capillary samples that have shown elevated blood lead levels should always be confirmed by a venous sample. MAFP additionally supports the United States Preventive Services Task Force screening recommendation for lead. However, MAFP opposes this additional training mandate being placed on physicians, as they are already committed to providing quality care, which includes evidence-based, targeted blood lead screening of high-risk children.

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians appreciates your consideration of our request and encourages you to oppose House Bill 5414. MAFP is available to assist you and your staff in any manner to increase quality and access to care for all Michigan residents, including vulnerable children. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please contact MAFP Director of Government Relations, Matt Black, at mblack@mafp.com or 616.633.3374.

Sincerely,

Karlene Ketola, MSA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians