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September 17, 2021

Honorable Graham Filler, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Re: House Bills 4847-4850**

Dear Representative Filler:

Michigan has long counted on the services of a dwindling pool of professional court-appointed guardians, yet before you are bills that would make the fragile system, worse, not better. I must express my strong opposition to **House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850**.

I am a practicing physician in the area of rehabilitation medicine. Many of patients are under professional guardianship. We require this option of oversight to assure individuals with intellectual disabilities will not elope, become non-compliant with the plan of care or are taken advantage of by family members or "friends" who enter into a guardianship relationship for secondary gain. Yes, there are a few bad apples, but the majority of the professional guardians I work with are caring individuals who protect my patients.

I'm concerned that these bills will drive more people out of the profession and put the individuals protected by these guardians at much greater risk. If professional guardians are limited to three clients, they will not be able to conduct business. Who will take their place? Professional Guardians serve a very important role advocating for patients, helping them apply for services, getting them out of legal trouble they fall into, and protecting them from predators. Without professional guardians for my patients with brain injuries or other vulnerable conditions, my patients would likely be homeless. This change will put my patients lives in jeopardy.

I cannot support these bills and urge you and your fellow lawmakers to consider the consequences of these bills. I understand that they are intended to protect the public, but a few cases of exploitation on the evening news DOES NOT represent the vast majority of excellent professional guardians who not only serve their clients well, but also establish

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personal relationships with them. I am in support of improving the system, but these bills will break the system.

Representative Filler, these bills actually will make things worse for some of most vulnerable citizens. Please seriously reconsider these bills... they may help one or two people and put hundreds more at risk.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paola Seidel, MD*

electronic signature

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