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Pintar Psychological Services, PC

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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 communicate my strong opposition to **House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850**.

I am a practicing neuropsychologist, who works with brain injured patients as well as those with mental illness. I am often asked to opine on whether an individual meets the State requirements necessary for a Court to determine legal incapacity. Each case has its own dynamics and while it would be convenient to find family and or allow the individual to make decisions, this is not always possible. Many families cannot or will not engage in a treatment program for a family member. Cases I evaluate often present an inability to make informed decisions and will result in self harm if not under guardianship.

I'm concerned that these rushed attempts at reform, will drive more people out of the profession and put the individuals protected by these guardians at much greater risk. If professional guardians go away, we will have a difficult time accepting new cases. Professional Guardians serve as important a role on each case as therapists. We are not able to provide any help with securing benefits, legal concerns, or personal needs. This change will put my patients in jeopardy.

I cannot support these bills and urge you and your fellow lawmakers to either kill them or amended them to something that can improve the system, not break it. Changes may be needed, but these bills are not the answer.

We are already finding it difficult, if not impossible to find professional guardians, who are willing to accept new cases. Clearly, these new barriers will make it tougher and put a fragile population at risk.

Representative Filler, these bills are not a solution any problems within the system and should not move forward. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jamie M. Pintar, Ph.D., LP
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