



2222 Association Drive • Okemos, Michigan 48864-5978 • (517) 349-3300 • 1-800-422-6478 • FAX (517) 349-3543 • www.michhome.org

April 25, 2024

The Honorable Kristian Grant, Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Small Business, Housing Subcommittee
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Opposition to House Bill 5237

Dear Chair Grant:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association (the "Association"), its members, and residents of manufactured housing communities in Michigan to ask you to oppose House Bill 5237. As you may know, HB 5237 would provide legal services at public expense for parties who are civil actions and to fund those legal services through a state appropriation.

The Association recognizes that residents and landlords frequently need legal services during court proceedings for non-payment of rent but believes State funding is more effectively used to provide assistance to residents needing help to pay rent. With all due respect to lawyers, funds are better spent providing resources to residents struggling with bills than helping lawyers make more money.

We also are concerned that the availability of state funding will incentivize lawyers to unnecessarily complicate and delay otherwise straightforward civil proceedings in a manner that will increase costs for landlords and tenants alike. By instead providing rental assistance to residents seeking assistance, direct funding helps residents and avoids unduly burdening Michigan's court system.

The Association opposes HB 5237 but welcomes the opportunity to work with you to develop a rental assistance program that would accomplish the sponsor's laudable goal of helping residents remain in their homes. As discussed above, we believe that approach directly benefits residents without benefiting lawyers or overburdening Michigan courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lindley", written in a cursive style.

John D. Lindley, IOM
President & CEO
Michigan Manufactured Housing Association

Cc: The Honorable Jason Hoskins
William Wertz, Public Affairs Associates

The Michigan Manufactured Housing Association is committed to making manufactured housing a naturally considered housing option.

Division of MMH & RVCA