



October 12, 2020

Chairman, Representative Hank Vaupel  
Health Policy Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Letter of Support for SB 826 (2020)

Dear Representative Vaupel and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am supporting SB 826 which would revise the mental health code to include physician assistants (PAs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) as mental health professionals. As Chief Medical Officer working at a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center, specializing in the care of persons with mental disorders including substance use disorders, I have seen how the inclusion on PAs and NPs has resulted in better care and outcomes for the people we serve. Over the past 6 years, that we have employed PAs and NPs, we have significant improvement in integrating care resulting in better blood pressure control, increase in medication assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol and tobacco use disorders and expansion of telehealth services.

There has been widespread review of the bill and it was passed unanimously in the Michigan Senate. Please support this bill that will allow Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists to be recognized as mental health Professionals in the Michigan Mental Health Code.

Sincerely,

*Michele Reid, MD*

Michele Reid, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

