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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JIM LILLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Michigan House of Representatives
ATTN: Transportation Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: House Bills 4364-4366

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

House Bills 4364 – 4366, sponsored by Representatives Lilly and Sneller, would update and amend Public Acts 92-94 of 2020 to allow audiologists and speech language pathologists to sign for a communication impediment designation on a driver's license.

The package would also allow authorized personnel with access to the Law Enforcement Information Network (L.I.E.N.) to view the communication impediment designation on the holder's identification.

Last year, the Michigan Legislature passed a package of bills (which became Public Acts 92, 93, and 94) which created a communication impediment designation that individuals can elect to have included when law enforcement views a person's vehicle registration, state ID, and driver's license. When electing to have a communication impediment designation, the individual electing to receive the designation must provide a certification to the Secretary of State that meets the following criteria:

- Is signed by a physician, physician's assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or a physical therapist licensed in Michigan;
- Identifies the person wishing to have the designation; and
- Describes the communication impediment.

Currently, audiologists and speech language pathologists are not included in the list of professions that may verify an individual has a communication impediment.

Audiologists and speech language pathologists are highly trained health care professionals that specialize in communication disorders. These professionals are qualified to identify communication impediments in their patients and should be included in these Public Acts. For the aforementioned reasons, I encourage the committee to vote in support of this package of bills.

Sincerely,

Representative Jim Lilly
Chairman, Rules and Competitiveness
89th District