



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Testimony on House Bill 6124

House Families, Children and Seniors Committee
Representative Kathy Crawford, Chairperson
September 15, 2020

Representative Crawford and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation today. My name is David LaLumia, and I am the Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. Our association represents the sixteen area agencies on aging (AAA) which provide services and supports to seniors and persons with disabilities in all 83 Michigan counties.

We support House Bill 6124. Conducting efficient and thorough criminal background checks is essential to protecting the health and safety of seniors and persons with disabilities served by the aging network. On August 21, 2020, the Commission on Services to the Aging added criminal background check requirements to operating standards required of all AAAs and contractual service providers. HB 6124 places these standards into the Older Michiganians Act. We support strengthening these standards by placing them in statute and we urge your support of this bill.

We are requesting one change to the bill. Section 61(1) requires a background check that requires "information similar or substantially similar to information found on an Internet Criminal Access Tool (ICHAT) and a national and state sex offender registry check..." We support this section. However, in addition to that requirement, Section 61(2) requires a background check to be conducted using the central registry. The central registry is a child abuse and neglect data-base operated by the Department of Health and Human Services. AAAs do not have direct access to the central registry. As a result, requesting a central registry check often results in delays in the process. Acknowledging this barrier, the central registry requirement was considered and removed from the Commission on Services to the Aging standards. We would request that Section 61(2) be removed from the bill to ensure that AAAs are able to comply with the law.

Thank you for considering this request and for your support of this important bill.

David LaLumia, Executive Director
Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan

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