

Ina J. Golden BSN RN CEN

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Dear Committee Members:

I am a Registered Nurse with over 35 years experience. I worked in an inner-city Flint Hospital in Pediatrics and the Emergency Department and have cared for foster children.

They bring unique needs. In an article in Pediatrics, October 2015, Volume 136/Issue 4 there is research from the American Academy of Pediatrics. It is their Policy Statement on "Health Care Issues for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care and Kinship Care". "Foster care evolved as a means of providing care and protection to children and adolescents removed from their family of origin for reasons of abuse and/or neglect and imminent safety concerns. Essentially all children in foster care have psychological issues related to family dysfunction. Early childhood trauma/toxic stress, especially if frequent or unremitting and not tempered by responsive, nurturing caregiving, adversely affects the neurobiology of the developing brain.

I oppose granting 10 spots as opposed to 6 and justifying it by saying it's on a 20 acre parcel. Governor Snyder vetoed the bill saying it would be a detriment to the youth by expanding the number from 6-10.

If childcare professionals advocate for up to six youth in order to give them the care they need, why should the lawmakers recommend more youth in one place simply because of a larger footprint of property? Doesn't make sense to me to go against the professionals who have studied and done research on maximum numbers of for optimum care.

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