



May 27, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
Health Policy Committee
Lansing, MI 48910

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, which represents over 4,400 family medicine physicians, residents, and medical students across the state of Michigan, I write to share our support and request your support for House Bill 4659. This legislation would provide an exemption from the electronic prescribing mandate "if the prescription is dispensed by a dispensing prescriber."

Currently under Michigan law, physicians can dispense prescriptions if they obtain a Drug Control License for each location where prescriptions are dispensed. When dispensing prescriptions in this manner, the prescriber can only dispense to their patients and must follow all applicable state and federal laws regarding storage, safety, dispensing containers, and labeling requirements. Dispensing prescriptions in this manner offers patients a quicker and often cheaper option than filling prescriptions at the pharmacy. A 2017 review in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that 20 to 30 percent of all prescriptions are never filled, and nearly 50 percent of prescriptions for chronic diseases are not taken as prescribed. When dispensing prescriptions during the office visit, patients are always filling their prescriptions.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services included an exemption for physicians who dispense out of office in the electronic prescribing mandate this legislation is modeled after. The six states of Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming have included specific language to offer an exemption for prescribers who dispense. As more states pass electronic prescribing mandates, we expect to see an increase in exemptions.

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians appreciates your consideration and encourages your support of House Bill 4659. MAFP is available to assist you and your staff in any manner the increase quality and access to care for all residents of Michigan. If you have any further questions or need additional clarification, please contact MAFP Director of Government Relations, Matt Black, at mblack@mafpa.com or 616.633.3374.

Sincerely,

Karlene Ketola, MSA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians