



September 19, 2023

The Honorable Stephanie A. Young, Chair  
House Families, Children and Seniors Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives

RE: HB 4841

Dear Representative Young:

Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 4841. Our nonprofit organization represents a broad range of community-based providers supporting over 30,000 individuals with disabilities and older adults, many of whom receive services in licensed adult foster care (AFC) homes. MALA has represented adult foster care providers since the enactment of the initial AFC licensing law in 1973.

We acknowledge Representative Young and the other members of the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee for their efforts to enhance Michigan's adult foster care program.

MALA is committed to supporting the highest quality of care in AFC homes, including our ongoing education and training. MALA provides extensive resources to adult foster care providers and their staff through conferences, seminars, webinars, and online 24/7 resources.

We are providing the following comments related to HB 4841:

- MALA opposes HB 4841 as currently proposed.
- This proposed legislation would fundamentally change the adult foster care program's social model to a medical model. AFC homes provide supports and services to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; physical disabilities; mental illness; traumatic brain injuries; and older adults, including persons living with dementia.
- The proposed LPN and social worker requirements do not reflect what the majority of AFC residents need or want. If such services are desired, they can be obtained through external resources including home health care, the MI-Choice Waiver program, and the public mental health system. In addition, these proposed requirements would make adult foster care an unaffordable option for thousands of vulnerable adults in Michigan.
- AFC homes have been an integral and essential part of Michigan's long-term care continuum for the past 50 years. AFC homes are not health care facilities and do not provide continuous nursing care. Michigan's adult foster care program consists of homelike settings for persons in need of room and board, personal care, supervision and protection as well as other supports and services based upon the individualized needs of each resident.



***The Leader in Advocacy, Education and Resources for Providers***

P.O. Box 530036, Livonia, MI 48153  
734.525.0831 | [www.miassistedliving.org](http://www.miassistedliving.org)

- From our organization's perspective, there is confusion in the public as to the role that AFC homes in Michigan perform in the long-term care continuum.
- The current statutory and administrative rule requirements responsibly provide a solid foundation for minimal standards which are often significantly exceeded by AFC licensees.
- MALA recommends the creation of a workgroup to explore strategies for enhancing Michigan's adult foster care program particularly as it relates to the assessment planning process, staff training and disclosure requirements. In particular, the workgroup should review potential statutory changes which would require, upon admission of each resident, that AFC licensees disclose the following:
  - The importance of developing and maintaining a thorough, clear and accurate assessment plan for the resident;
  - The process of updating the assessment plan and how to address concerns with implementing a plan;
  - The complete contact information for the equivalent of the home manager, owner and/or governing body of the AFC licensee;
  - A disclosure statement indicating explicitly that the AFC home is not a nursing home, and therefore a resident cannot need continuous nursing care. However, this prohibition does not preclude intermittent use of nursing services provided by a home health, hospice or other provider;
  - Instructions on how to contact the state licensing agency if there is a concern regarding the home's compliance with adult foster care licensing rules; and
  - Instructions on how to contact Adult Protective Services with concerns relating to suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on HB 4841. We look forward to participating in upcoming discussions regarding Michigan's adult foster care program.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Stein  
General Counsel

Brenda L. Roberts  
Director of Quality Assurance and Education

CC: Rep. Betsy Coffia, Majority Vice Chair  
Rep. Douglas Wozniak, Minority Vice Chair  
Rep. Carol Glanville  
Rep. Noah Arbit  
Rep. Kimberly Edwards  
Rep. Sharon MacDonnell  
Rep. Joseph Fox  
Rep. Gina Johnsen  
Rep. Jamie Thompson