

September 20, 2021

Honorable Graham Filler, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Re: House Bills 4847-4850**

Dear Representative Filler,

I remember the first time I heard there was such a thing as "professional guardianship." I thought that it was impersonal and strange that there were individuals appointed by the court to make medical and financial decisions for someone that they were not related to. As it turned out, I became one of these individuals. In the 7 years that I have worked for a professional guardianship company, I have had the pleasure of serving our most vulnerable population.

I know that the work that I have done has saved lives and I think it is important for you to understand this before you vote on House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850. The passing of these bills would make it impossible for me to continue to do my job. The amazing company I work for will most likely go out of business. This means that there will be no one to consent to life saving medical treatment for our clients or that the seniors that we have been appointed to serve and protect may die freezing in their homes because there is no one to aid them.

It is very disappointing that there are members of the Michigan Legislature that have compared my profession to the popular Netflix movie "I Care A Lot." This movie is a Hollywood dramatization and not a documentary. The sad reality is that many of the clients that we serve do not have family that is willing or able to assist them. The company that I work for very often acts as a safety net and ensures that our clients have food, clothing, shelter, insurance, and medication. I fear for these people if these bills get passed.

I am in strong opposition to these bills and urge you and your colleagues to come up with a better solution. Please do not pass these bills as your well-intended action will have dire consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Samaan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Samaan