

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Dr. Kenneth Pituch, MD

RE: House Bills 5418-5419

- There are dozens of children cared for in the children's hospitals of Michigan who have terminal conditions and will unlikely survive to their teens or young adulthood
- Most of these children will benefit from going to school
- Most of these children continue to receive services in our hospitals and clinics to make their lives a little easier and more comfortable. When they are in the hospital many of them are cared for with orders to provide appropriate care, but in their condition worsens, their physicians and their parents agree that it will be appropriate for them to have an order to not intervene with cardiopulmonary resuscitation or mechanical ventilator support in the event that they stop breathing or their heart were to stop. This is called a "Do Not Resuscitate" or "Do Not attempt Resuscitation" order. These orders are accepted as the right thing to do in the hospital, and when shared with an ambulance service, are accepted in a child's home.
- Although some Michigan school districts will honor a "DNR order", many districts require parents to seek a court order for a school to comply
- The bills being reviewed will enable schools to accept appropriately documented orders to provide comfort-focused care for the children to be able to attend school without forcing parents to publicly share very personal information about a child's condition.
- No district in Michigan which has accepted a DNR order for a child in their school has experienced the death or near-death of a child with such an order.
- Any child eligible for a DNR order will have a set of emergency care instructions detailed in his or her Individual Education Plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Pituch, MD

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