

The seal of Rose Township, Michigan, is circular with the word "ROSE" at the top and "TOWNSHIP" at the bottom. In the center, there is a figure holding a staff, possibly a Native American or a personification of the township.
Dianne Scheib-Snyder
Rose Township Supervisor
9080 Mason Street
Holly, Michigan 48442

March 12, 2019

Dear Representatives,

As the Rose Township Supervisor in Oakland County, Michigan and a lifelong resident of a rural community I am asking that you oppose House Bill 4095 and vote NO. I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to consider my comments.

I believe changes to local zoning laws should not be a state legislative concern. There is already a process in place, that an individual or organization may go through to seek local zoning authorization. I understand that this is a very important issue to be decided upon, however, it is an issue that local officials and boards made up of citizen of the community who understand the specific needs of the community should manage.

Former Governor Snyder wrote that the critical needs of fostered youth must be "balanced with the ability to effectively provide them with the precious care that they deserve." He stated his belief that increasing the cap on foster children in a home from 6 to 10 compromised that balance and would ultimately negatively impact the children that the bill intended to help.

I wish that our newly elected Representative, who co-signed the bill, had asked his constituents and the local elected officials how we felt this bill would impact our community. If he had taken the time to reach out to the people, he represents it is a great possibility we would not be here having this discussion today.

It is my understanding that an adult would not even sleep in this home and that there are no adult sleeping arrangements. I question how this could be considered a foster home and not be considered an institution.

It is my understanding that the nonprofit House of Providence has hired a lobbyist and I believe the idea of allowing these institutions on 20-acre parcels was done specifically to target rural areas, because unlike more affluent areas we do not have the funds or people available to fight for our community. Rural communities are an easy target, is the only logical reason a 20-acre parcel equals 10 children.

I know of no evidence that demonstrates residential services are enhanced merely by locating care facilities on large parcels in areas with limited resources. Large capacity facilities (over six) concerns seem to be supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services policy of having preference for placement in small (0-6 individuals) home settings.

I could find no knowledge of how House Bill 4095 if passed would have any positive impact on our neighborhoods or the children involved here and I believe this a pandoras box being opened for a special interest group.

As I mentioned earlier there is already local process in place for this, I would like to ask for your support to vote NO on House Bill 4095 and leave local zoning in the hands of the local government.



Dianne Scheib-Snyder
Rose Township Supervisor