



Dear Chairman LaFave and members of the Michigan House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security Committee,

On behalf of Trinity Health Michigan, we want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB's 4770 – 4774, legislation that would, among other changes, eliminate the list of specified premises (including hospitals) where a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon, is currently prohibited from carrying said weapon. Trinity Health Michigan is committed to ensuring a culture of safety for patients, visitors and employees. A great amount of work has been, and continues to be performed, across our statewide health system, to ensure that patients, visitors and employees are safe in our hospitals, outpatient sites and physician offices. While much of this work has focused on the safe delivery of healthcare services to our patient's; this work has also extended to efforts to prevent violence in all of our healthcare delivery settings. **Subsequently, Trinity Health Michigan opposes this legislation because we believe that hospitals' status as gun-free zones is a key component to ensuring this safe environment for patients, visitors and staff.**

As you may know, Trinity Health Michigan is composed of eight regional health ministries including: Mercy Health Muskegon, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Mercy Health Lakeshore Campus, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Our regional health ministries have experienced an increase in violent episodes over the last several years that threaten the safety of our patients, visitors and employees. This increase in violent episodes is not limited to our health system but is something that many health systems are facing across the country. In fact, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has consistently found that health care workers are four times more likely to experience serious workplace violence than other professions. We believe hospitals should be places of peace and healing where patients, visitors and employees alike feel safe and secure. Legislators can help in promoting this healing environment and address the increasing violence we are experiencing by maintaining hospitals as gun free zones and enacting stronger health care worker protections that will ensure a safer environment for workers, patients and visitors alike.

Trinity Health Michigan believes that the current statute providing for gun free zones in vulnerable areas, represents the appropriate response to the potential problems of allowing weapons in these areas. Conversely, we believe that passage of this legislative package could interfere with Michigan hospitals' commitment to leading our state toward becoming the national benchmark for healthcare quality and patient safety. We want to meet our patients and their family members' expectation of a safe and healing environment which allows our caregivers to focus on providing the highest quality care possible. **Trinity Health Michigan urges you to oppose House Bills 4770-4774.**

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with questions and/or concerns regarding our opposition to this legislation, or alternatively, you may contact Sean Gehle or Autumn Gillard in the Trinity Health Michigan Advocacy office at sean.gehle@trinity-health.org or autumn.gillard@stjoeshealth.org.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Casalou in black ink.

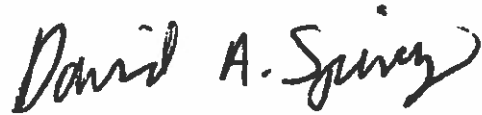
Robert Casalou
President and CEO
Trinity Health Michigan

Handwritten signature of Rosalie Tocco-Bradley in black ink.

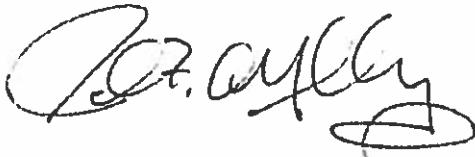
Rosalie Tocco-Bradley, MD, PhD, MHSA
Trinity Michigan Chief Clinical Officer
Mercy Health & Saint Joseph Mercy Health System



Gary E. Allore
President
Mercy Health Muskegon



David A. Spivey
President & CEO
St. Mary Mercy Livonia and
Vice President, Community Health & Well-being, Michigan Region-Trinity Health



John F. O'Malley, MSA, MBA, FACHE
President
St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital & Brighton Health Center



Shannon D. Striebich
President
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland