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Testimony on SB 669, 671-2, 758

Dec 15, 2020

Good morning and thank you for providing us the opportunity to weigh in on Senate Bills 669, 671, 672, and 758. We are the Economic Alliance for Michigan and represent those around the state who receive healthcare and those that pay for it. We do not represent those that deliver healthcare. And we look for healthcare to be two things – patient centric and high value. So it is important for us to understand how healthcare is delivered and the quality and cost of those services.

We believe generally that Michigan's unique Certificate of Need process helps provide higher value care than is delivered in other states. The recent RAND hospital price study showed that Michigan has amongst the lowest hospital prices in the country and the data suggests that CON is part of that success.

You will hear that Michigan's program is good, but there is always room for improvement. And in fact we believe that is one of the keys to the success of Michigan's program. The program is constantly evaluating itself and improving as the standards adapts to the ever changing healthcare landscape.

Another key is that there is broad stakeholder representation at the table. Doctors, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, nurses, business, consumers all have a voice at the table. Senate Bill 671 to add two public members to the commission and we welcome that as well.

We support SB 671 with one change that is not related to the Commission, but the change to the Standards Advisory Committees that the Senate passed. The changes before you are meant to make it easier for the committees to be formed. We support that goal. But we want to ensure the non-medical spots on the committees have a chance to be a part of the process. We think this language will severely limit the voice of consumers, purchasers, and payers from sharing their perspectives on important issues. And we are more than happy to work with this



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committee, the bill sponsor, and anyone else to find appropriate language that accomplishes the goal of making the standards advisory committees easier to form, and preserves the input of those that receive and pay for care.

The other issue we will discuss is psychiatric beds. There is a lack of inpatient psychiatric care in this state. Many different stakeholders have come together to identify the issues related to what needs to be done to improve access. The state has communications issues, we have huge staffing shortage issues, we have payment issues...CON is not a key issue or barrier to inpatient psychiatric care in our state. We also share the attached cost study that demonstrates that Michigan is cost friendly to purchasers. Mental health is a serious issue in our state beyond inpatient care. PTSD cases are up 73% in the last few months with men having the higher occurrences, General anxiety disorder cases are up 91% and people with Depressive disorder are up 163%. In both of those conditions, the higher prevalence of cases are found in women. Sen. Vanderwall has a scope of practice bill (SB 826) that we support. We would also support efforts to fully integrate behavioral health into every primary care office in Michigan. Since the data shows that telemedicine visits are just as effective in treating many mental health issues as an in-person appointment, we should look at expanding the access to providers beyond our state's borders. This is why we support Interstate compact bills like SB 758. But eliminating psych beds from CON is not a useful solution.

We also want to express our support for SB 669 (H-1).

In summary, we support:

SB 669 (H-1)

SB 671 with a minor change to protect the voice of purchasers and consumers

SB 758

We oppose:

SB 672

We ask the committee to take up SB 826, and move it to the floor.
