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THE VOICE OF BRAIN INJURY

October 2, 2019

Representative Hank Vaupel  
Chair – House Health Policy Committee  
N-896 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Vaupel and House Health Policy Committee Members,

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) is in full support of the adoption and usage of the proposed modified design and subsequent implementation of the International Symbol of Access as put forth in HB 4516 and 4517.

This new movement-depicting design more accurately reflects the abilities of a great majority of persons in Michigan's disability community who no longer let a term like "handicapped" define who they are. These are individuals with an active lifestyle who shop, bank, dine out, hold jobs, own businesses, visit friends and relatives and lead an otherwise active lifestyle in the communities where they live, work and play.

BIAMI commends the leadership of bill sponsors, Rep. Beau LaFave and Rep. Greg VanWoerkom, and also recognizes their work with the Disability Network of Michigan in carefully crafting the bills' inclusive language and appropriate intent.

We are proud to endorse HB 4516 and 4517 and wholeheartedly recommend their adoption by the Health Policy Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Constand".

Tom Constand  
President and CEO

cc: Rep. Beau LaFave  
Rep. Greg Van Woerkom  
Kevin McKinney

*Our Mission:* To improve the lives of those affected by brain injury in Michigan and to reduce the incidence and impact of brain injury through advocacy, awareness, education, prevention, research and support.