Michigan Center for Assisted Living

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Testimony on HB5762
House Senior Health, Security and Retirement Committee
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The Michigan Center for Assisted Living, an association representing many of the homes for the aged and adult foster care homes in Michigan must respectfully oppose House Bill 5762.

Because nursing homes, homes for the aged and hospices are all health facilities and there is no intention of changing that definition in the Public Health Code, all three provider groups will still be substantially regulated by the Public Health Code. If this act passes, these providers would be regulated by two acts rather than one. At a time when the term assisted living is so difficult to define in this state, MCAL believes that this act will substantially increase the confusion for consumers and for providers.

This legislation also opens up home for the aged, and adult foster care regulation for amendment on the House floor. Increasing regulation is costly to both providers and the state. In an industry that is primarily private pay, any increase in cost goes directly to the consumer and only creates a situation where less people can afford to access necessary services – a potentially dangerous situation that already exists for too many individuals who are caught in the gap between being unable to afford private pay in HFA or AFC but physically ineligible for Medicaid funding in a nursing home setting.

We believe that legislation should be created for the purpose of solving problems or correcting errors. We do not believe HB 5762 will accomplish either goal but perhaps add more challenges to consumers and providers. This bill does not truly consolidate but adds confusion.