



**Written comments for House Health Policy
Committee hearing on 4/28/15**

Dear Chairman Callton and members of the committee:

Good morning, my name is Amy Zaagman and I am the executive director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health. The Council's membership includes large hospital systems, statewide organizations and local entities with a mission to advocate for policies that support the health of women and children. MCMCH includes many of the providers and coordinators of special health care services for children in our state.

We support House Bills 4203, 4204 and 4205 and Senate Bills 112, 113 and 114 which seek to update the term "crippled child" in various Michigan statutes. These bills modernize language that is considered derogatory and limiting in scope for today's standards of care.

"Children and youth with special health care needs" is the appropriate way to refer to children whose health conditions may warrant special treatment. The state's own program that offers supplemental coverage, care coordination at the local level and family supports for children with chronic and/or life limiting conditions is called the Children's Special Health Care Services Program. HB 4205 updates the Public Health Code not only to make the language change but to modernize the enabling statute for the program to match current activities.

I assure you these changes are incredibly meaningful to individuals, their families as well as their providers, so that these children and youth may be recognized in all Michigan statutes in a respectful and accurate way.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these bills.

Sincerely,

Amy U. Zaagman
Executive Director

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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