



1325 South Washington Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
(517) 487-5426 or 1-800-292-7851  
Fax: (517) 487-0303  
Website: [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org)

Don Teegarden, President

Dohn Hoyle, Executive Director/CEO

November 28, 2012

Honorable Phil Pavlov, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
905 Farnum Building  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Re: SB 1358**

Dear Senator Pavlov,

First let me thank you for the opportunity to offer the following comments on Senate Bill 1358.

The Arc Michigan is a statewide organization of 12,000 members and 33 local chapter affiliates that advocate with, and on behalf of, citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. I have reviewed Senate Bill 1358 and have the following concerns.

The Education Achievement Authority has been operating for only two to three months. This is not enough time to draw any concrete conclusions on the effectiveness of this action for students in general or special education. This is not enough time to sort out unintended consequences especially for students with a disability. This is not enough time to determine how students with disabilities will fare in the EAA.

I ask that you wait until there is data from the EAA that is currently operating in the Detroit area, following closely how students with disabilities fare in the EAA before expending the EAA to include more schools across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

*Maggie Kolk*

Maggie Kolk, Chair  
Education Committee