

Donald G. Hall, NHA
Vice Chairman, Alliance for Health
Chairman, Michigan Skilled Nursing Facilities' Alliance
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Testimony Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES, SENIORS, AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Good afternoon Committee Members. My name is Donald Hall. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for you today regarding SB 884. I have been a licensed Michigan home administrator for twenty-three years and have administered skilled nursing facilities varying in size from 76 to 300 beds. I am also a six year volunteer with the Alliance for Health in Grand Rapids. The Alliance for Health is a non-profit organization working with all levels of west Michigan health care providers, insurers, business leaders, and consumers in an effort to reduce health care costs, improve quality of care and maintain consumer access to health care services. At the request of several providers, the Alliance for Health took the initiative to assist skilled nursing providers in improving the working relationship between Michigan's Bureau of Health Systems and skilled nursing providers. During this time, the Alliance for Health had the honor and privilege to work with Senator Geoff Hansen and his staff. The Alliance for Health commends Senator Hansen for his untiring efforts in drafting this bill. He and his staff worked diligently with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; all three long term care associations and the Alliance for Health to present this draft bill today.

The Alliance for Health strongly supports SB 884. This Bill serves as a positive step toward improving internal and external communications between the legislature, the regulator and the skilled nursing facility provider. Because of the Alliance's long-standing holistic view of healthcare, we understand and recognize our ever increasing reliance on high quality skilled nursing services in Michigan's health care continuum. There is no question that there are skilled nursing facilities requiring strong regulatory oversight in Michigan. We support the regulator's role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our seniors. To this end, we believe that the standards enumerated in SB 884 will go a long way toward improving the regulator's overall effectiveness. Again, the Alliance strives for improved quality, cost containment and access to services. We believe that accountability at all levels, not just at the provider level, is key to having high quality skilled nursing services statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this body. Do you have any questions?