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Testimony for Senate Government Operations Committee

Dear Chairman Richardville and other members of the committee:

On behalf of The Arc Michigan, which represents persons with developmental disabilities and their families statewide, I offer support and comments for House Bill 4714 as it is before you today.

The Arc Michigan steadfastly supports this opportunity to extend health insurance coverage to hundreds of thousands of Michigan citizens. We supported Governor Snyder's initial proposal to extend Michigan's current Medicaid program. We were actively engaged in House deliberations leading to passage of HB 4714 in the chamber. And today we strongly urge you to support HB 4714 both in this committee and through its final passage on the Senate floor.

To be clear, we had and continue to have concerns about several provisions of HB 4714 even today. We believe some of the enrollee participation requirements may be overly burdensome; we fear that some of the reporting and analytic requirements placed on the Department of Community Health are onerous; we are unsure whether there is capacity in the managed care market to absorb and appropriately serve so many new enrollees; and we seriously question the arbitrary 48-month cap on Medicaid coverage for a population with disproportionately highly chronic and/or lifelong conditions that will not be "cured" or end after 48 months.

Those concerns being expressed, however, The Arc Michigan believes that HB 4714 as before you today is worthy of support and passage by this Legislature. It will create health insurance coverage for a population with little other access to insurance. It will fully maximize available federal funds while preserving Michigan's flexibility to adapt in the future. It will extend a Medicaid program that we truly believe to be excellent and efficient, while instituting reforms with the potential to alter the insurance and health care cost environment for all Michiganders. It is simply the right thing to do for Michigan.

Please support the work of the House, the work of the Senate Healthy Michigan Workgroup, and the efforts of countless advocates statewide by reporting out and passing House Bill 4714.

Sincerely,

Dohn Hoyle
Executive Director
The Arc Michigan

