

Team Based Care MEMORANDUM

TO: Michigan Senate Health Policy Committee

FROM: The leadership of the:

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
Michigan Allergy and Asthma Society
Michigan Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
Michigan Dermatological Society
Michigan Orthopaedic Society
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Pediatric Society
Michigan Psychiatric Society
Michigan Radiological Society
Michigan Rheumatism Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists
Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians

Michigan Thoracic Society
Calhoun Medical Society
Genesee County Medical Society
Ingham County Medical Society
Jackson County Medical Society
Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine
Kent County Medical Society
Macomb County Medical Society
Marquette-Alger County Medical Society
Midland County Medical Society
Muskegon County Medical Society
Oakland County Medical Society
Saginaw County Medical Society
St. Clair County Medical Society
Washtenaw County Medical Society
Wayne County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 68 and Team Based Care

DATE: March 10, 2015

On behalf of our organizations, their members and our patients, we wish to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 68 as written and ask you to continue your commitment to putting Michigan patients first. This legislation seeks to create legislative and regulatory parity for advanced practice nurses and physicians despite the significant differences in the amount of training required by the two professions. Additionally, it has been claimed that this legislation will somehow address the pending health care access issues across Michigan resulting from the influx of new patients under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Let's be clear:

- **Senate Bill 68 does not adequately address the training gap.** Physicians are required to train for at least seven years, and often train up to 11 years before being granted the same

(Over)

degree of independence sought under Senate Bill 68 for advanced practice nurses after only four years of training.

- **Senate Bill 68 does not address patient access to care.** Michigan's Public Health Code already provides broad latitude for advanced practice nurses to locate in underserved areas. No evidence has ever been provided to demonstrate that Senate Bill 68 will solve this problem. Furthermore, experience in other states that have adopted similar legislation found that advanced practice nurses tend to locate similarly as physicians, leaving rural areas underserved.
- **Senate Bill 68 does provide a legislative shortcut for training that should be acquired by experience and education.** Quality and safety within health care is not an accident. Education is the best way to prepare health professionals to provide the highest level of care to patients in Michigan, not legislation.

Our organizations remain committed to working on issues such as improved patient access, efficient delivery of care, and addressing health professional shortage issues. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 68 remains focused only on giving advanced practice nurses legislative and regulatory equivalence to physicians.

Michigan physicians understand every discussion in Lansing about health care and health policy should start and end with what is best for Michigan patients. United together, we urge this committee to continue its support of team-based care, not Senate Bill 68.