



mahp
Michigan Association
of Health Plans

Written Testimony in Support of SB 352 September 29, 2015

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My name is Christine Shearer and I am the Deputy Director of the Office of Legislation and Advocacy for the Michigan Association of Health Plans. Our association represents 17 health plans serving over 2.5 million Michigan citizens in Medicaid, Medicare and Commercial products and 55 business and limited members. Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of SB 352.

Senate Bill 352 takes a major step toward helping to ensure that family caregivers in Michigan have the resources and training they need to care for their loved ones at home following a hospital stay.

The AARP estimates that about 1.2 million Michiganders provide care to an aging family member or a loved one at home, helping them live more independently. The value of that care, AARP said, is about \$16 billion.

The Michigan CARE Act recognizes the very important role family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones safe at home after being in the hospital. MAHP encourages members of the Senate Health Policy Committee to support SB 352, which will improve the quality of care of countless Michigan citizens and save the taxpayers money in the process by lowering readmissions to hospital emergency rooms.

Thank you for your consideration.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing MI 48909

RE: CARE Act - SB352

Dear Chairman Shirkey and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

I am a University Distinguished Professor in the College of Nursing at Michigan State University. I am writing in favor and support of the CARE Act.

From my experience of 25 plus years of funded research studying the needs and stresses of family caregivers caring for the chronically ill, I am in strong favor of the passage of Bill SB352. I am speaking for the million patients (1,063,513 in 2014) and their families who will be discharged this year from Michigan hospitals and whose family caregivers will be required (based on patient needs for care) to provide millions of hours of unpaid care so their loved ones can continue their recovery from their current health problem. Their care is critical to preventing re-hospitalization and good patient health outcomes.

For Michigan citizens discharged from hospitals, the majority need a family member to help with their medical care. This need lasts for a few days to several months as they recover from a hospitalization. Family caregivers are the ones left with the day to day huge responsibility to provide the needed care. Family caregivers need information and instruction on how to provide this care.

This bill, SB352, is not asking for professionals (nurses or physicians) to do more than is the current standard of basic patient care. We are asking that all families have access to this information and clear instructions so that the patient care will be provided.

Patients now have to have discharge plans – this already is required by Medicare, Medicaid and the Joint Commission of Hospitals. These organizations ask that family members be a part of the hospital discharge plan instructions. This is a standard of care but is now inconsistently applied.

The stress and uncertainty this causes family caregivers is major. Our own research and that recently reported by AARP in their 2015 June report *Caregiving in the U.S.*¹ shows that caregivers were:

- spending 24.4 hours per week providing care
- 30-40% of the caregivers reported burden



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Caregivers were involved with the following:

- 50% provided for physical care
- 66% were monitored for side effects and complications such as infection, bleeding, dehydration
- 63% had to communicate with health professionals about patients' condition; a toxic effect, a complication
- 57% had to do medical surgical tasks such as shots, catheters, dressings, ventilators
- * 84% said they need more information in dealing with challenging behaviors for safety for dementia and skin care for the disabled elderly
- * 46% had to deal with multiple complex medication regimens
- Only 14% had training on the care they were to provide

(We are not talking about bathing, dressing, eating, and household tasks. We are talking about medical and nursing care.)

Half of those interviewed for the AARP study thought having their name on the patients' chart would have been helpful to the care. Forty three percent wanted instructions on the tasks they were to provide.

Caregivers in our own research studies are performing medical and nursing tasks, more complex than we would allow nursing students to do during their first year of training. They provide a huge volume of care with much responsibility over many weeks and months.

I applaud the legislature for their wisdom and leadership to bring the caregiver issue forward in Michigan. We are not known to be a state that supports family caregivers.

This will be a huge support for family caregivers – timely and needed information. This Care Act, SB352, would reduce caregiver stress, distress, and uncertainty and ensure that patients had better health outcomes and patient safety from harm. This bill will also be of benefit to the health care system.

Our research has documented the importance of family members' involvement in care for pain and other symptom management, reduced hospital admissions and reduced length of stay.

To support this bill means you are joining your legislative colleagues in more than 24 states who are in discussions, and 14 of whom have passed this law.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Sincerely,



Barbara Given, PhD, RN, FAAN
University Distinguished Professor
Director of PhD Program
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References:

1. AARP, National Alliance for Caregiving. (2015). Caregiving in the U.S. Retrieved from <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015/caregiving-in-the-us-research-report-2015.pdf>
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cc: Senator Joe Hune
Senator Margaret O'Brien
Senator Jim Marleau
Senator Rick Jones
Senator Jim Stamas
Senator David Robertson
Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr.
Senator David Knezek
Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood



Letter in Support of the CARE Act

Sept. 29, 2015

Senate Health Policy Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman Shirkey and the honorable members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

Please accept this letter on behalf of LifeSecure Insurance Company in support of the CARE Act (Senate Bill 352). We applaud Sen. Margaret O'Brien and additional parties who were instrumental in introducing this legislation. As a Michigan-based insurance carrier whose primary product is long-term care insurance, we support the shared goal of ensuring family caregivers have the necessary knowledge to care for their loved ones and that care recipients can receive the quality care they deserve, even in their own home.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian S. Vestergaard", written in a cursive style.

Brian Vestergaard
Vice President, Product and Marketing
LifeSecure Insurance Company



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
6105 W. ST. JOSEPH, SUITE 204, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

September 28, 2015

To: Chairman Mike Shirkey and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee
From: Mary Ablan
Re: Senate Bill 352, the CARE Act

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan supports Senate Bill 352, known as the CARE Act. AAAAM leads a coalition of aging groups which sponsor an annual event called "Older Michigianians Day," this year held on June 2nd on the lawn of the State Capitol. Support for the CARE Act was part of this group's two-year issues platform, distributed to all Legislators. A copy is attached.

We urge your Yes votes for the CARE Act because it supports the important role played by non-paid caregivers when the care receiver enters and exits a hospital. It would also address the problem of non-family caregivers having no access to information because of privacy laws.

When a recuperating patient leaves the hospital, their successful recovery depends on competent aftercare in the home. This bill ensures required live instruction for caregivers in medication management, wound care, transfers and other duties.

Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 352, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts about the bill.

2015 RESOLUTION NO. 15-202

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan*

**Resolution Supporting Michigan Senate Bill No. 352,
The Caregiver Advice, Record and Enable (CARE) Act**

**Commissioner Andrey Duzyj On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) supports a range of Macomb County social, nutritional, access and long-term care services to the elderly population; and

WHEREAS, one in four Macomb County residents will be 65 years of age or older by 2030 and this elderly population will continue to grow as the number of residents age 0 to 64 years will decrease from 86 percent in 2005 to 75 percent in 2030. Consequently, Macomb County will age faster than the nation, state and surrounding regions; and

WHEREAS, Macomb County is currently home to 130,000 senior residents; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan, nearly 4,500 seniors are not receiving much needed in-home services including home-delivered meals, and in Southeast Michigan, half of the seniors qualifying for services must wait six months or more to receive them; and

WHEREAS, across Michigan, more than two million family caregivers help to meet the unserved needs of seniors, with these family caregivers volunteering nearly 1.4 billion hours in service to their elderly family members; if these hours were paid, this time would be worth \$15.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, the service of friends and family caregivers for the elderly population allows older adults to continue living independently at home for a longer period of time and helps this population and others realize savings on medical care costs; and

WHEREAS, The Caregiver Advise, Report and Enable (CARE) Act supports the elderly population, as well as others needing care, and their family caregivers and is consistent with the mission of Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan state legislature, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and community organizations to make Michigan a “no wait state” for senior in-home services; and

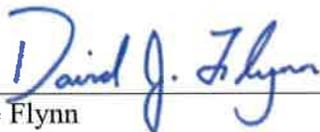
WHEREAS, the CARE Act enables a patient or guardian to designate a family caregiver on medical records, ensuring notification of family caregivers when their loved one is to be discharged home or to another treatment facility and assures that a thorough explanation of medical tasks necessary for proper patient care are included in the patient’s discharge plans. Such instruction may include demonstrations of management of medications, injections, and wound care; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the CARE Act promote improved senior health by providing family caregivers knowledge and training to improve their ability to provide proper care and are of great benefit to the elderly population and the family and friends who serve as their caregivers.

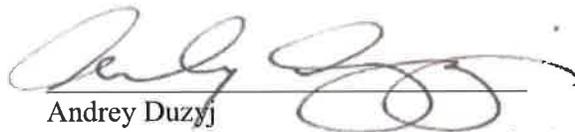
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan Senate Bill No. 352, The Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges all members of the Macomb County State legislative delegation to support The Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable Act.

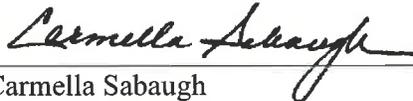
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies if possible, be provided to all members of the Macomb County State Legislative Delegation, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Health and Community Services Director Steve Gold, Macomb County Community Services Agency Director Rhonda Powell, Macomb County Office of Senior Services Director Katherine Benford, AAA 1-B Board of Directors Chair Amin Irving, and AAA 1-B CEO Tina Marzolf.



Dave Flynn
Chairman, Macomb County Commission
Commissioner, District 4



Andrey Duzyj
Macomb County Commissioner, District 1



Carmella Sabaugh
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Passed at 8/20/15 Full Board Meeting



Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr., President



September 22, 2015

Senator Margaret O'Brien
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: The CARE ACT - Senate Bill 352

Dear Senator O'Brien:

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Christ.

When I heard of your interest in helping your constituents who find themselves as caregivers for family members and/or others, I felt compelled to write you expressing my sincere appreciation and support.

As President of the Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention, I serve more than 275 churches throughout the State of Michigan. Often I hear their members, along with some even from the church of which I am Pastor in Flint, Michigan speak of the task of caring for those who are ill. I have learned that some are responsible for care of which they need both skill and support. To know that you have written a Bill that will allow the medical facilities and families to have a concise method that will assist in making the act of caring more plausible, simply calls for my support and gratitude to not only you but all who will support this Bill. I am sure this will be one Bill that garners bipartisan support and I look forward to sharing the good news with all the voters in the churches under my leadership.

Yours for Calvary - Now!

Handwritten signature of Henry L. Fuller, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr.

HLF/bd

cc: Dr. Nettie Walker Wood (AARP Volunteer)

Rev. Dr. Clifton Rhodes
Vice President-at-Large

Rev. Roy Manning
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Rev. Dr. Joseph Jordan
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Rev. Fred Alexander
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