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**Michigan House of Representatives Health Policy Committee**  
**RE: Senate Bill 826 of 2020**

**December 2, 2020**

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Chair Vaupel and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering our testimony on position on Senate Bill 826. The Autism Alliance of Michigan and Disability Rights Michigan are opposed to Senate Bill 826. Our organizations in conjunction with a number of other behavioral health and disability rights organizations around the state have worked to decrease the use of seclusion and restraint in Michigan.

Any expansion of authority to utilize these practices will not only increase their use but also signal that the State of Michigan approves of these practices in lieu of more modern and humane behavioral intervention methods.

If the legislature deems the bill necessary to increase available staffing for state psychiatric hospitals, then the Autism Alliance of Michigan and Disability Rights Michigan request that the following amendments are made to the bill.

1. Require nationally-recognized certification for the professionals added to PA 1974 258 via Senate Bill 826 in order to make decisions about hospitalization or seclusion and restraint decisions. Tie certification to hospital credentialing.
2. Require a minimum of 2000 hours of experience for the same named professionals.
3. Eliminate registered nurses from 1974 PA 258.
4. Add Michigan Department of Health and Human Services policy promulgation to reduce the use of seclusion and restraint in Michigan's psychiatric hospital system.
5. Require annual reporting of seclusion and restraint cases from Michigan psychiatric hospitals starting in 2021. Use 2021 as the baseline year from which to require annual reductions.

Thank you for your consideration on these changes. We and members of our respective teams are available to answer questions from the committee members.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Allen  
President and CEO, Autism Alliance of  
Michigan

Michelle Roberts  
Executive Director, Disability Rights of  
Michigan