

March 12, 2019

Committee members, Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee
House of Representatives

Re: HB4095

Thank you for allowing me to express my views on HB4095 when I testified on February 13, 2019.

Tomorrow you vote, please vote this bill down.

Fostered children deserve much better than being housed with 9 other children and cared for by paid staff. **To consider this a family setting is a mockery of the foster care system....it's institutionalization.** A loving home setting with a parent/parents who can nurture and provide extra guidance necessary for a productive and hope-filled future is the best answer.

The Michigan Health & Human Services Department, surprisingly, is in favor of the bill, solely on their need for more beds. **Let our focus be on creating more true foster homes with maximum six kids rather than an institution-like facility with paid staff for 10 children.**

This is a thinly disguised attempt to increase revenues. First in a selected site in northern Oxford Township, Oakland County and now we are told they are expanding this business model to Rose Township. It is easy to see why they have chosen to bypass a local ZBA and take this to state level, insuring their continued financial growth throughout Michigan despite local ordinances and zoning. All of this to promote their poorly thought out business model.

By the intensity of their testimony you can see how important it is to them to have the increased revenue that 4 children/house will bring.

Finally, I gave testimony on and quoted a Probate and Family Court judge with 43 years of experience and a nonprofit agency, Oakland Family Services on the belief that this bill should be voted down. Governor Snyder saw fit to veto this bill, it is my hope that you will concur.

Please consider the children first, not the business of housing them.

Please vote this bill down. Our children deserve better than this!

Respectfully,

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