

Memo

To: Members of the House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security Standing Committee
From: Adam Carlson, Senior Director, Government and Political Affairs
Date: Oct. 15, 2019
Re: House Bills 4770 through 4774 – Concealed Weapons in Hospitals
Position: Oppose

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association strongly oppose House Bills 4770 through 4774, introduced to the House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security Standing Committee. This bill package would eliminate the list of specified premises (including hospitals) on which a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon may not carry. **The MHA and Michigan hospitals oppose the bill because hospitals' status as gun-free zones helps ensure patient and staff safety and the ability to provide high-quality care. In addition, the MHA strongly believes that introducing weapons to an environment is not conducive to promoting health and wellness.**

Concealed weapons, and whether to allow more individuals to carry them, have long been an issue debated in the Michigan Legislature. In 2000, legislation was signed into law that would provide new standards and procedures for issuing a concealed weapons license. The vast majority of groups included in the CCW exemption contend that nothing has transpired over the last 19 years that indicates a need to change the current law. There was much discussion and debate in crafting the original CCW law that protects the 2nd Amendment rights of Michigan citizens and allows for common sense exemptions in certain public places. **Hospitals were recognized as a place of healing and were rightly designated as weapon-free zones.**

Michigan hospitals will make every effort to continue to keep weapons out of their facilities. **The proposed legislation ultimately places 2nd Amendment rights in conflict with the rights of property owners.** Specifically, the state's six public hospitals governed by city, county, state or federal government and the state-operated psychiatric hospitals are at even further risk, as their efforts to regulate publicly owned facilities could be challenged in the judicial system.

The MHA believes that current law represents the appropriate recognition of the potential problems of allowing weapons in hospitals. Further, passage of this legislative package could interfere with Michigan hospitals' commitment to leading our state toward becoming the national benchmark for healthcare quality and patient safety. We want our patients, their family members and our staff to feel as safe as possible, so we can focus on providing the highest quality care possible. **The MHA urges you to oppose House Bills 4770-4774.**

Please contact Adam Carlson at acarlson@mha.org or (517) 886-8245 at the MHA if you have further questions on this important issue.

Brian Peters, Chief Executive Officer