



# Michigan Disability Housing Workgroup

May 23, 2012

## STATE SENATOR

The Honorable Glenn Anderson

State Senator

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Anderson:

Michigan Disability Housing Work Group (MDHWG) is a coalition of organizations banding together to advocate with and for people with disabilities in state and federal issues pertaining to housing. We work in collaboration with the larger community, with the goal of expanding housing opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities.

A very important program to Michigan is the Nursing Facility Transition Initiative (NFTI) which allows people to live where they choose but is very dependent on the availability of affordable and accessible housing for which MDHWG continues to advocate. If affordable and accessible housing is available the transition to the community is cost effective, costing an average of \$60/day compared with a nursing home cost of \$172/day. NFTI is part of the MI Choice Medicaid home and community-based waiver.

Last year, the transition program helped more than 1,600 people move from a nursing home back to the community with an immediate cost savings to the state. Each person faced barriers that prevented them from returning home on their own.

According to Governor Snyder's 2012 Executive Budget, NFTI has saved the state \$65 million since 2008.

There are 8,000 people on the MI Choice waiting list. Individuals are forced to wait many months, even years to enter the program.

We are very concerned about the 'Olmstead' implications of this proposed budget cut; Michigan has a national reputation for having exited folks successfully from mental hospitals as well as a pioneering nursing home transition team that also is perceived as a national model of success.

## Member Organizations

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Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living • Capitol Area Center for Independent Living • Community Housing Network, Inc.  
Disability Advocates of Kent County • Disability Network Lakeshore • Disability Network Mid Michigan • Disability Network Southwest Michigan  
Disability Network Michigan • Michigan Developmental Disability Council • Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
Southwest Counseling Solutions • Superior Alliance for Independent Living • The Disability Network • United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan

Thank you for your past support of MI Choice and nursing facility transitions. Nursing Facility Transition continues to be a worthy effort and as such we ask you to approve \$11 million for the MI Choice waiting list and \$25 million for nursing facility transitions in the MI Choice budget for FY 2013. MDHWG also encourages you to support efforts to increase affordable and accessible housing in order that these and other transitions to the community can take place, e.g. funding for the Michigan's Housing and Community Development Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Ecklund".

Paul D. Ecklund  
Chair