



Michigan Corrections Organization
Service Employees International Union Local 526M

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Chairman VanderWall and members of the Michigan Senate Health Policy and Human Services Committee,

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to express the Michigan Corrections Organization's support for Senate Bill 228.

In 2016 the Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO) began actively studying officer suicides and post-traumatic stress within the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Our research, in collaboration with one of the leading experts in America, illustrates an alarming trend within the corrections profession and points to a pervasive and serious problem as it relates to suicide, post-traumatic stress and depression within the ranks of the MDOC.

We have lost (8) officers and (2) recent retirees to suicide since 2016. This puts our 6,200 officers at a 3x greater risk of suicide than a member of the general public. This unfortunate and preventable loss of life has led MCO to declare a state of emergency within our profession and has left many asking: what can be done?

SB 228, which creates the "Suicide Prevention Commission", is an important part of determining causes and addressing the underlying issues of suicide in Michigan and applying that insight to the challenges officers face on a daily basis.

MCO is in full support of SB228.

When it comes to suicide prevention, MCO is fully invested and prepared to work collaboratively with all stakeholders and organizations to find solutions. Through cooperation, we can all help stop this epidemic.

Sincerely,

Byron Osborn
President