

STATE OF MICHIGAN
**Department of
Health & Human
Services**

MDSVPTB

**Michigan Domestic &
Sexual Violence Prevention &
Treatment Board**
235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 506
Lansing, MI 48933
www.michigan.gov/domesticviolence
Phone: (517) 335-6388
Fax: (517) 241-8903

Chairman Pete Lucido
Binsfeld Office Building
201 Townsend Street
Suite #3100
Lansing, MI 48933

April 24, 2019

RE: MDSVPTB Position on HB 4129-4132 (Medically Frail Parole)

Dear Chairman Lucido and Committee Members,

The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (“the Board”) is a seven-member Governor appointed Board charged with funding sexual assault and domestic violence services for victims and providing policy recommendations on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The medically frail parole bills, HB 4129-4132 would modify current Michigan laws to allow for the parole and placement of MDOC prisoners whose physical or mental condition meets the medically frail definition in facilities equipped to address those physical and mental conditions.

MDSVPTB Position: Oppose unless the following amendments are addressed.

1. Allow victims of those being considered for medical parole the same opportunities as victims in other parole board cases. Allow the right to address or submit a written statement for consideration by a parole board or panel member. This would not be to object if the prisoner is or is not medically frail, but to allow the victim to address the continued impact of the crime and express their safety or other concerns about the prisoner being released on medically frail parole.
 - a. Amendment option: Include victims should have the right to participate in parole review as outline in MCL 780.771(1).
2. Before a prisoner is found to be medically frail, he/she would have to serve a certain percentage of their sentence before they are eligible to qualify for medically frail parolee status. The Board has suggested that 75% time served on their minimum sentence must be met before consideration.
 - a. This would circumvent a prisoner entering with a medical frailty from ultimately not serving a substantial amount of time of their minimum sentence.

Thank you for your attention to the Board’s concerns. Please note that the Board’s position and rationale is solely that of the Board and does not represent the views of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services or any other body. Although the Board is administratively housed within MDHHS, it is an independent, legislatively-created body with members appointed by the Governor.

Thank you,

Debi Cain
Executive Director
MDSVPTB