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The Economic Alliance for Michigan is supportive of Senate Bill 826 and appreciates Senator Vanderwall's leadership in bringing this solution forward. As we have dealt with the pandemic over the past few months this state has made incredible sacrifice to curb the spread of COVID-19. Many are now concerned about a second wave occurring. We would argue that the second wave has already hit and swamping our healthcare system. This second wave comes in the form of a mental health crisis.

Claims data of mental health screenings shows us that the rate of mental health and substance misuse disorders has increased dramatically in the past few months. Since February 3rd we have seen growth in the following disorders:

- A) Addiction +40%
- B) Post Dramatic Stress Disorder +50%
- C) Social Anxiety Disorder +80%
- D) General Anxiety Disorder +100%
- E) Depression +140%

Our healthcare system had a shortage of trained personnel that could handle the demand for services pre-COVID. Today the system is fully under water. The state made incredible efforts to ensure access to COVID-19 infection treatment during March and April. The state should ensure that its citizens whose mental health are effected by COVID-19 are able to have similar access to care for their conditions. Senate Bill 826 is a strong step in that direction.

SB 826 is appropriate, it is timely, and it should be passed without delay.
