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Michigan House of Representatives
Michigan Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning to you unsigned House Bill 6499. The bill would have amended the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to increase the allowable number of children who can receive care at particular state licensed residential facilities.

While the proposed amendments to the zoning statute do not directly impact the Children's Services Administration or the Division of Child Welfare Licensing within DHHS, they do directly impact Child Caring Institutions (CCI) who are licensed by the Division of Child Welfare Licensing. Current Michigan law caps CCI foster youth occupancy at six residents or less. The bill would allow for 10 foster youth residents or less at a CCI facility located on a parcel of 20 acres or more.

As the number of foster youths have increased across the state, expanding the capacity for CCI facilities that can place foster youths is crucial. However, the critical needs of fostered youth must be balanced with the ability to effectively provide them with the precious care that they deserve. While seemingly well intended, increasing the capacity and concentration of fostered youths could negatively impact the goals of providing foster youth care.

I do not believe that this legislation was as thoroughly evaluated before final passage, and therefore, I am returning HB 6499 to you today without my approval.

Sincerely,



Rick Snyder
Governor