



September 27, 2017

House of Representatives  
Health Policy Committee  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Vaupel and Members of the Committee:

Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) is keenly aware of the devastation caused by the opioid epidemic throughout the state and the nation. As such, it is encouraging to see the many legislative initiatives crafted to specifically address this issue and which are being considered in the bill package before you. MCC would like to urge the Michigan Legislature to adopt these necessary reforms as a positive first step in curtailing this serious epidemic.

We further encourage the legislature to remain focused on this prominent public health issue and to continue exploring additional ways that address the use and abuse of opioids.

As we are able, MCC is also taking steps to provide education and to raise awareness on the dangers of substance abuse and opioid addiction. The June 2017 FOCUS publication, *Confronting Michigan's Opioid Crisis*, is enclosed for your review and has been distributed to all the Catholic parishes and schools throughout the state.

May success come through the variety of efforts being made to eradicate this epidemic. Thank you for your continued attentiveness to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Hickson,  
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy

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