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Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director

Oct. 13, 2020

Sen. Pete Lucido, chairman
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
201 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Lucido and Members of the Committee,

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) appreciates the intent of the bill sponsor for Senate Bill 1152, however, we must express concerns with the legislation in its current form due to many unknown variables and costs related to the proposed policy. We have shared these general concerns with the bill sponsor as well and look forward to working collaboratively.

MAC is currently reaching out to members, of large and small counties, to understand current practice when it comes to standards of care for pregnant women held in county jails. Until there is a larger understanding of current policies around the state, compared to the requirements in this bill, we cannot begin to provide a cost analysis. Jail populations are often fluid, and any estimates would be based largely on speculation.

The bill proposes the Legislature will provide funding for counties for any increased costs. However, one Legislature cannot bind a future one. This is concerning for future appropriations. MAC would suggest clear language be included to ensure required services under Section 2 are subject to state appropriations made available and provided to counties to avoid any violation of the Headlee Amendment.

Additionally, we encourage the committee to address concerns raised by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, particularly as they relate to liability and funding measures.

Respectfully,

Meghann Keit
Governmental Affairs Associate

Cc: Senator Erika Geiss