June 14, 2023

Senator Kevin Hertel, Chair
Health Policy Committee
7600 Binsfeld Office Building
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Hertel,

I am writing today to respectfully request an oversight hearing regarding the Hawthorn Center in Northville Township. Since 2020, at least 17 young patients at the Hawthorn Center—the only state-run psychiatric hospital for kids—have escaped from the hospital.

It is important that young patients seeking treatment and care at Michigan’s only state-run psychiatric hospital is being operated correctly and following all appropriate policies and laws.

It is also concerning that the hospital will be reconstructed and current patients will be temporarily housed at Reuther Hospital, where adults are currently being treated. Children and adults should be separated and not housed together under the same roof, which creates legitimate safety concerns. Many parents that have children at Hawthorn no longer trust the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in keeping their kids safe.

In addition, Hawthorn is the subject of a lawsuit from an active shooter drill that took place at the hospital in December of 2022.

It is clear that there are issues at Hawthorn that require us to understand what is going wrong. We must ensure that state officials are held accountable and can restore confidence to our residents.

If you have any questions on this request, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Webber
State Senator
District 9
June 14, 2023

Senator Sylvia Santana, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on DHHS
5600 Binsfeld Office Building
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Santana,

I am writing today to respectfully request an oversight hearing regarding the Hawthorn Center in Northville Township. Since 2020, at least 17 young patients at the Hawthorn Center—the only state-run psychiatric hospital for kids—have escaped from the hospital.

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Sincerely,

Michael Webber
State Senator
District 9
June 14, 2023

Senator Sam Singh, Chair
Oversight Committee
S-8 Capitol Building
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Singh,

I am writing today to respectfully request an oversight hearing regarding the Hawthorn Center in Northville Township. Since 2020, at least 17 young patients at the Hawthorn Center—the only state-run psychiatric hospital for kids—have escaped from the hospital.

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