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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH POLICY,
MINORITY VICE CHAIR
ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Oct. 8, 2025

Rep. Jay DeBoyer, Chair
House Oversight Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair DeBoyer,

Following a recent [audit](#) by the Office of the Auditor General that found the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services failed to protect the rights of psychiatric patients, I would like to express my support for a committee hearing to review these findings.

I [requested](#) the audit after [hearing tragic accounts](#) from former patients and families with loved ones treated at the former Hawthorn Center. The OAG's findings confirmed serious concerns within the Office of Recipient Rights, including:

- Nearly 30% of sampled complaints alleging abuse, neglect, serious injury or death were not retrieved or acted on in a timely manner.
- More than 10% of sampled complaints lacked an ORR date stamp, making it impossible to determine whether action was timely.
- Video and audio systems at state psychiatric hospitals were often missing or not working.
- ORR had no process to monitor state psychiatric hospitals' incident reports, which could have led to undetected and/or unreported rights violations.

The Legislature must act to strengthen oversight and ensure accountability for those responsible for protecting vulnerable patients in the state's care. Therefore, I formally request a hearing to address the glaring failures within MDHHS.

I would gladly provide additional information or testimony before your committee.

Sincerely,

Michael Webber
State Senator
9th District

cc: Rep. Luke Meerman