



MICHAEL WEBBER

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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

Oct. 13, 2025

Elizabeth Hertel, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 S. Grand Ave.
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Hertel,

It has come to my attention that crucial, previously public data regarding recipient rights complaints has been removed from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website.

Until recently, records from October 2021 to September 2024 were available online. Their removal is deeply concerning, especially given that a recent audit found the figures may understate the true number of verified incidents because of poor documentation.

When investigators contacted MDHHS, they were told there was an "error" in the data that had been publicly posted for years. Then, just one day before their report was set to air, the department removed portions of that data from its website. Because fiscal years 2022 and 2023 were contained within the same report, the public now has no access to either year's information. Data related to the Hawthorn Center has also been removed entirely.

You are aware of the disturbing findings from the Office of Recipient Rights audit, which confirmed systemic failures under your leadership. Please provide a timeline for when the data will be restored online and an explanation of the discrepancies that led to its removal.

Your department cannot continue to operate in secrecy. Michigan families must be able to trust the systems meant to protect them. I look forward to your timely response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Webber".

Michael Webber
State Senator
9th District