



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-0840
FAX: (517) 373-7590
stevenjohnson@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN JOHNSON
72ND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT, CHAIR
ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
JUDICIARY
TAX POLICY
**APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE:**
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, VICE-CHAIR

June 10, 2021

Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA

Auditor General

201 N. Washington Square 6th Floor

Lansing, MI 4891

Dear Mr. Ringler,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic took quite a toll on senior citizens across the country and right here in Michigan who reside in long-term care facilities. Thousands have died and recent news indicates that the number in Michigan is under-reported. In our recent House Oversight Committee hearing, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Hertel admitted that because not all types of facilities are required to report deaths, not all have done so. The number of long-term care facility deaths is likely higher than what is being reported.

Additionally, not all long-term care facilities are required to report their deaths to the state. This includes homes for the aged and adult foster care facilities as well as smaller (12 or less residents) facilities. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is crucial we have accurate data so we can properly assess the effectiveness of our COVID-19 response and be better prepared for future pandemics.

We would ask that the Office of the Auditor General perform a review to provide a comprehensive study of reported and unreported deaths in long-term care facilities in Michigan. This would include:

- a review of the DHHS processes and procedures for obtaining death reports from long term care facilities
- a review of the vital records reports that DHHS at one time cross checked with long-term care facility records,
- a comprehensive review of all death records to see if nursing homes are correctly self-reporting their death numbers,
- and a proper accounting of all long-term care facility deaths to include homes for the aged and adult foster care facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Johnson".

Representative Steve Johnson
Chairman of the House Oversight Committee