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May 28, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
111 S Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: 2019-2020 Budget

Dear Governor Whitmer,

With difficult budgetary decisions facing the state in the coming weeks, HCAM is writing to request that Medicaid funding for nursing facility beneficiaries is not reduced in the current fiscal year budget. Now, more than ever, Michigan's nursing facilities are vital to the health and well-being of our state's senior population.

HCAM represents more than 350 nursing facilities in every corner of the state, all of which have been impacted by COVID-19 and most significantly in southeast Michigan. These nursing facilities are on the frontlines protecting our state's most vulnerable population from this deadly virus. The COVID-19 fight requires significant resources, including staffing and PPE, to protect residents and staff. A cut to these resources would compound the already extremely difficult circumstances facility residents and staff are facing.

We are in the midst of the worst public health crisis in a century. And while spread of the virus has significantly slowed, we know nursing facilities will continue to fight this battle for the foreseeable future.

Every Michigander has felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and all of us have had to make tremendous sacrifices. We commend your decisive actions to protect everyone in the state, and for your attention to the needs of health care providers, including nursing facilities. While there is no doubt our state is facing some of the most serious budget challenges in decades, we ask that you make every attempt to spare long-term care services from any proposed cuts.

Our nursing facilities need your help and support. With the appropriate resources, we can mitigate the devastating impact of COVID-19 and save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Melissa Samuel, President/CEO
Health Care Association of Michigan

CC: Robert Gordon, Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, Michigan Senate
Speaker Lee Chatfield, Michigan House of Representatives