

# IRON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE MI CHOICE PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the Senate recently passed SB 135 which contains the following boilerplate language under Section 1852 (*Long-Term Service and Support Pilot – Senate requires DHHS to implement a pilot in Wayne, Macomb, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren Counties and the Upper Peninsula to transition home and community based services waiver recipients into a long-term services and support program administered by an integrated care organization*)

**WHEREAS**, the MI Choice Program is a long term care, in home services program for U.P. residents seeking long term care at home;

**WHEREAS**, the MI Choice Program, administered by UPCAP, uses a local network of service providers including Community Action Agencies, Commissions on Aging, County Agencies and private Services Agencies;

**WHEREAS**, enacting this provision would have the following negative affects on Upper Peninsula residents:

- Closing down the popular MI Choice Program which has been operating since 1988 and has a 98% satisfaction rating;
- Creating a pilot program which would mandate that all existing MI Choice participants receive their in home care from a for profit insurance company;
- Making the U.P. the only region in the State that doesn't give residents a choice of where they receive their in-home care and care management;
- Requiring U.P. residents to have their care provided by a for-profit insurance company that has little or no experience in providing in-home care to the nursing home eligible population.

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[www.ironmi.org](http://www.ironmi.org)



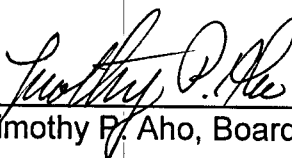
**WHEREAS**, one reason why Section 1852 is being proposed is because, under an existing demonstration pilot (MI Health Link) involving the for profit health insurance company (Upper Peninsula Health Plan) and the MI Choice Program, when provided a choice, 95% of the clients opted NOT to have their care provided by the insurance company, but instead by MI Choice. The new pilot would make it **mandatory** for residents to be enrolled with the for profit health care organization **eliminating choice**.

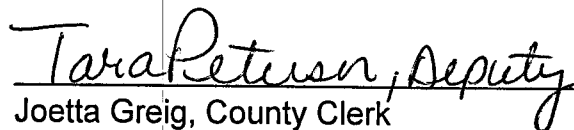
**WHEREAS**, should the pilot demonstration be allowed to move forward and not be successful, the comprehensive network of services developed over the past 29 years for the MI Choice Program will no longer be available nor unable to fully meet the future community-based long-term supports and services needs of the Upper Peninsula residents.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the IRON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS opposes Senate Bill 135; Section 1852 and requests that the Upper Peninsula of Michigan be removed from the pilot, allowing MI Choice to continue providing U.P. County residents a **choice** of options like the rest of the State.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

6-13-2017

  
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Timothy P. Aho, Board Chair

  
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Joetta Greig, County Clerk

## Facts Supporting the Resolution

- The U.P. MI Choice Program is operated by UPCAP and uses a network of providers including county agencies, community action agencies, commissions on aging and home care agencies, etc.
- The UP MI Choice Program serves over 450 individuals in every county of the U.P.
- UPCAP has been operating the MI Choice Program since 1988 and has a client satisfaction rate of 98%
- UPCAP is a charitable private non-profit agency with a board composed of county commissioners from each of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.
- The for profit integrated care organization mentioned in the boilerplate is a for-profit insurance company ultimately controlled by a group of investors and corporate citizens
- The for profit insurance company has less than two years experience in serving home and community based long term care clients and that experience is met through a contract with UPCAP and its provider network