

Hello everyone, my name is _____. I am in **opposition** to Senate Bill 991-The Right to Try Act. This bill intends on providing patients a choice to access and receive experimental drugs, provided the patient meets certain criteria. The drugs that are to be administered to the patient must have successfully completed Phase 1 of an FDA-approved drug trial. We already see potentially devastating issues with the bill at this point. For those of you who are unaware of the FDA trial Phases, Phase 1 studies are often performed on healthy individuals and only the most frequent side effects of the drug are determined. Phase 2 determines the effectiveness of the treatment in a patient who is need of such a treatment. If we were to expose people with illness to a drug that has not even been proven to be effective, it could worsen their condition. We have an obligation to look out for the well-being of these patients.

Remember the stories from the 1800's, before the days of the FDA? Scam artists would sell all kinds of "wonder cures" to the unsuspecting public. Sometimes, these drugs proved to be addictive opioids. Sometimes, these substances were simply placebos used to bilk the vulnerable and desperate of their last dime in exchange for false hope. Because this bill does not require insurance companies to pay for experimental treatment, these untested "cures" would create a largely unregulated cash market that puts the critically ill patient and their family in a largely unprotected financial situation. While there are many amazing researchers out there, the news is regularly filled with stories of "Big Pharma" corrupting treatments for financial gain or even bribing doctors to sell more of their drugs. Can you imagine if the state gave these "companies" a free pass to tap into a market without proven testing or results? The government really is the only entity big enough to provide any form of accountability to the medical treatment market, and public safety gives the State an objective interest in doing so.

In addition to protecting patients, the State also has a duty to protect doctors. Should a physician or counselor advise a patient against the experimental treatment, and should the patient reject said counsel, then the physician is UNABLE to withhold treatment, and will be forced to administer treatment to the patient. This could put physicians in the position of administering a drug that could harm or even kill their patient, whose well-being is their ultimate responsibility.

The State of Michigan has a fundamental duty that is more important than any other responsibility: the protection of the lives of Michigan citizens. Making unsafe, experimental treatments with untested side effects available to those suffering from serious illness is to use our vulnerable citizens as human Guinea pigs. To give these patients and their families hope while exposing them to unknown risks, or even premature death, is nothing short of cruel. Simply put, Senate Bill 991 is unconscionable.

Between the inadequately tested drugs, the inability of the patient to discern what is or is not best for them, and the incapability of this bill to protect the most vulnerable, the "Right to Try" act should **not** be passed.