STATE OF MICHIGAN

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

LET IT BE KNOWN, Pain is a national healthcare crisis. A Michigan Department of Community Health March 2009 public survey found that about 28% of Michigan's adult population had acute pain issues, and 24% of Michigan's adult residents had chronic pain issues. Untreated and under-treated pain is one of the main reasons people seek medical care. Pain affects people of all races and economic status at all stages of life-the young, the middle-aged, and the elderly.

Untreated or under-treated pain weakens the immune system and slows recovery from disease or injury. It diminishes the quality of life and adversely impacts almost every aspect of a person's life including sleep, work, and social and sexual relations. Pain costs our economy billions of dollars in lost workdays and medical costs. Untreated and under-treated pain drives up the cost of health care because it extends lengths of stay in hospitals, increases emergency room visits, and leads to unplanned clinic visits.

Many health care practitioners are not adequately trained to treat pain appropriately, safely, and effectively. Approximately 55% of the Michigan adult public seeks treatment for their pain through their primary care physicians, who may have very limited training in pain and symptom management. However, when pain is treated properly, many people can resume their normal, active lives. Many types of treatments, pharmacological and non-pharmacological, are available today to manage or greatly ease most pain, so people with pain should not suffer needlessly. In addition, the Michigan Department of Community Health provides pain management resources to the public through its website.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, This document is signed and dedicated to commend those who work to raise the awareness of chronic pain and those who work to manage it. May they know of our admiration for their dedication and effort.

Liz Brater

Elizabeth S. Brater, State Senator
The Eighteenth District

Kathy Angerer

Kathy Angerer, State Representative
The Fifty-Fifth District

Pam Byrnes

Pam Byrnes, State Representative
The Fifty-Second District

Alma Wheeler Smith

Alma Wheeler Smith, State Representative
The Fifty-Fourth District

Rebekah Warren

Rebekah Warren, State Representative
The Fifty-Third District

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE
SPECIAL TRIBUTE

The Ninety-Fifth Legislature
At Lansing
September 7, 2010