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**Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director**

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Michigan State Senate  
Binsfeld Office Building  
201 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan House of Representatives  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 N. Capitol Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48909

Members of the Michigan Legislature,

Please be advised that the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) supports the creation of a juvenile justice facility in Northern Michigan.

Michigan's juvenile justice system is in crisis because of a critical lack of detention and treatment beds for justice-involved youth. In Northern Michigan, there are no facilities to care for these youth, and there is often no place for them to stay or receive necessary mental and behavioral health treatment pending court hearings. With a statewide bed shortage, and no facility in Northern Michigan, courts are often forced to place justice-involved youth in counties several hours away or, in some cases, even in other states. These distances harm a family's ability to participate in services with their child.

The lack of treatment facilities not only affects our youth, their families and our court system. It creates a tremendous burden on law enforcement and imposes a great cost to counties to place youth outside of their home county.

Given the critical need for a juvenile justice facility in Northern Michigan, MAC supports their request for state funding of the construction of a 32-bed, court-operated facility.

Respectfully,

Stephan W. Currie  
Executive Director

SWC/sg