



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan Elected Officials to Receive Legislator of the Year Awards

Michigan Sen. Curtis Hertel and Rep. Ken Yonker will be presented with the Michigan Pharmacy Political Action Council (PAC) Legislator of the Year Award at the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Annual Convention & Exposition, Feb. 26-28 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Legislator of the Year Award is presented annually by Pharmacy PAC to legislators who have introduced or supported good public policy and have been supportive of the profession of pharmacy.

In 2014, Curtis was elected to the 98th Michigan Legislature, as the State Senator for the 23rd district. He was chosen as the Minority Whip and Chairperson for the Democratic Caucus Campaign Committee.

He serves as Vice Chairperson on the legislative committees for Banking & Finance, Commerce, Health Policy, and the Higher Education appropriations subcommittee. He is also a sitting member of the legislative committees for Appropriations, Regulatory Reform, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, and the Community Health & Capital Outlay appropriations subcommittees.

He previously served as Ingham County Register of Deeds from 2009 to 2014, working hard to inform the public about the dangers of property and mortgage fraud. He battled the foreclosure crisis by educating residents about their options, and the types of government help available to them.

In 2011, when banks began to conduct foreclosure fraud, he began his fight on behalf of Ingham County residents illegally forced out of their homes. Curtis brought a number of lawsuits against banks, foreclosure firms & attorneys to bring this issue further into the light. Additionally, because of his efforts, an attorney was hired to fight individual cases of wrongful foreclosure in Ingham County, and a hotline where concerned citizens could get more information was introduced. He also held 12 community forums across the county to further educate the public about the issue.

He was chosen to become vice-president of the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds in 2011, and was re-elected to a second term as Ingham County's Register of Deeds in 2012. He has also served on the Ingham County Health Plan Board and co-chaired the Ingham County Census Board.

Previously, he served as an Ingham County Commissioner from 2001-2008. On the Commission, Curtis focused on expanding access to health care in the community through the Ingham Health Plan, improving the quality of Ingham County's housing stock through his work on the Ingham County Land Bank Authority, and improving the lives of workers in the community by passing the living wage. While a commissioner, he also served as Vice-chair of the Board of Human Services Committee.



During that same time Curtis Hertel Jr. worked on the public's behalf for the State of Michigan. Curtis served as Constituent Relations Director for the House Democratic Caucus. For 6 years Curtis Hertel Jr. worked for the Department of Community Health. He also served as the Department's Legislative Liaison. In his role with the department Curtis was the lead on several packages of legislation including the Governor's Childhood lead safety package, the Nursing Home background check package, and the Childhood Booster Seat package. Curtis has been a strong supporter of pharmacy and our mission to protect and serve the patients of Michigan.

Rep. Yonker was first elected to the Michigan House in November 2010. He represents the 72nd District, which includes Dorr Township, Leighton Township, Wayland City and Wayland Township in Allegan County as well as Gaines Township and Kentwood City in Kent County. Yonker was re-elected to his third term of office in November 2014. Rep. Yonker was first elected to the Michigan House in November 2010. He represents the 72nd district which consists of parts of Allegan and Kent counties. After graduating from Michigan State University he opened up a small business, Yonker's Landscaping Inc. He was on the Caledonia School Board for 8 years before running for office. He serves as a member of the Committees on Education, Health Policy, Regulatory Reform, Tax Policy, and Transportation and Infrastructure. In his free time he enjoys riding horses with his wife Amy or spending time with his 4 children. His current priorities include defining the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses as well as allowing access to new pharmaceuticals to the people of Michigan and creating a state run insurance system.

The Michigan Pharmacy Political Action Council (PAC) is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of pharmacy professionals that actively seek to promote good government and public health. Pharmacy PAC serves as the advocacy arm of Michigan Pharmacists Association, which advances the profession of pharmacy and patient care on behalf of the 9,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in the state.

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