Practical Community Learning Project
Project Proposal: State Representative Kevin Coleman Nursing Home Policy
Fall 2020

Introduction

This Practical Community Learning Project (PCLP) consists of a semester-long policy-based community project. Your group will meet in a remote setting regularly with the Community Engagement Manager of P3E to work with our community partner around a mutually agreed upon initiative. The project will provide you with opportunities for dialog, research, and service. PCLP is open to Ford School of Public Policy undergraduate and graduate students. Participating students will receive two credits of independent study credit.

The office of Michigan State Representative Kevin Coleman seeks to partner with the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy to host independent study students to inform new or amended nursing home legislation for the 2020-2021 legislative year. This project is a continuation of the Practical Community Learning Project fellowship from Summer 2020. Your team will perform a 50-state survey of how nursing homes across the country reacted to COVID-19 positive residents and employees. State Rep. Kevin Coleman is serving his first term representing the 16th House District, which encompasses the city of Wayne and the majority of the city of Westland. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University, attended the Lee Honors College and is a former member of the Westland City Council. Rep. Coleman sits on the insurance committee, the agriculture committee, and the nursing home workgroup. In addition, he is the Democratic Vice Chair of the communications and technology committee.

Scope of Work

During the summer 2020, a Ford School student conducted a feasibility study to inform Rep. Coleman’s office if a 50-state survey of how nursing homes across the country reacted to COVID-19 positive residents and employees could be conducted. The student researcher determined the availability of reported, aggregated, and published data on nursing homes and infectious diseases and patient safety. The previous study also searched for accessible information related to nursing homes and assisted living facilities in other states pertaining to inspections, enforcement, violations, numbers of inspectors per facility, etc. Using the framework and policy recommendations from the feasibility study, your team will expand research efforts to document:

1. Existing state-level rating/grading systems for nursing homes and assisted care living facilities
2. Evidence of rating systems effects on reimbursement rates for services/state funding
3. Existing statutes regarding staffing ratios for facilities
4. Proposed legislation that has yet to be enacted or supported by advocacy groups or legislators across 50 states
5. Data collection systems for reporting, aggregating, and publishing data on nursing homes and infectious diseases, patient safety, etc.
   o examples of systems which seem to work better than Michigan’s existing system
6. Analysis of how Michigan rates related to other states in nursing home/assisted living facilities in regards to inspections, enforcement, violations, number of inspectors per facility etc.
Expected Results

State Rep. Coleman is assisting members of the Democratic workgroup to make recommendations to improve conditions in Michigan’s nursing homes. Your team’s work will inform Rep. Coleman’s legislative efforts in nursing home reform. The deliverable will provide policy research and data analysis to better understand COVID-19 efforts across the country. At the end of the independent study, the expectation is for you to present a detailed review of legislation, procedures, and policy. Your in-depth analysis will serve as the foundation for a proposed bill(s) through Rep. Coleman’s office in January 2021. The overview should be straightforward and accessible to members of the Michigan House of Representatives.