

# The Public Affairs Pulse

## Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

### Medicaid Expansion Passes Senate Committee – Headed for Full Vote

LANSING — HB 4714 to expand and reform Medicaid coverage for those making between 100-133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in Michigan passed the Senate Committee on Government Operations on Wednesday, July 31, just in time for the Governor's requested deadline. The bill passed out of committee with 4 yeas, 1 pass (Sen. Hildebrand {R} – Grand Rapids), and 0 nays.

Debate over the bill has centered on cost-sharing provisions that establish that those with incomes between 100-133% FPL would need to purchase insurance through the new health care marketplace after 48 months of benefits or pay a shared cost of 7% of their income to remain on Medicaid.

In addition to HB 4714, two alternative Medicaid bills were introduced and passed out of Committee. SBs 459 and 460 would create a "Patient Centered Care Act" as an alternative to Medicaid expansion. This plan functions similarly to Health Savings Accounts (HAS) used in the private sector and would move Medicaid patients to private insurance plans. It is unlikely that the federal government would cooperate with Michigan if such a plan were passed. The plan is unpopular and not expected to move further.

SB 422 would create the "Michigan Low Income Health Plan Act" to provide limited health coverage to individuals under 100% FPL. Those between 100-133% would qualify for tax credits to purchase insurance in the health care marketplace. This plan would provide very inexpensive coverage for those below 100% FPL who do not qualify for other state or federal healthcare aid. The fiscal impact of this

plan has not been evaluated.

The Department of Community Health, tasked with handling funding for Medicaid expansion is in support of the more traditional HB 4714 and opposed to the two alternative plans. A full vote is expected in the Senate at the end of August.

### Women's Health and Economic Security Taskforce Hosts Town Hall Tour

The Michigan Women's Health and Economic Security Taskforce hosted three town hall meetings throughout the state in late July and early August to talk to constituents about legislative issues of particular interest to women. The tour launched in Muskegon hosted by Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright (D – Muskegon), Rep. Collene Lamonte (D – Muskegon), and Rep. Jeff Irwin (D – Ann Arbor). The theme of the evening was equal pay. Nana Kratchovil of the Michigan League of Women Voters presented current statistics on women's employment and pay discrepancy.

The second town hall took place in Canton, hosted by Rep. Dian Slavens (D – Canton) and featured a discussion about Medicaid Expansion and women's health. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan Director of Government Relations Meghan Groen was as guest speaker and spoke to the crowd about the importance of the Michigan legislature doing the right thing for women's health and the current Decline to Sign campaign fighting back against a ballot initiative that will restrict access to abortion in Michigan insurance plans.

The final meeting took place in Battle Creek and featured a conversation about aging and child care legislation.

### Affordable Care Act Takes Center Stage at PPFA Organizing and Policy Summit

WASHINGTON — Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) hosted its annual Organizing and Policy Summit (OPS) July 9-12. The Summit is designed to bring together field and public affairs staff from around the country to learn about current legislative issues and attend trainings on outreach work.

This year the focus of the Summit was the upcoming implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). With the October 1 launch deadline fast approaching, PPFA and Planned Parenthood affiliates nationwide are gearing up for serious changes. With so many new people gaining access to health insurance – many for the first time – Planned Parenthood is working hard to make sure that we can continue to provide care to any woman who needs us, no matter what!

Planned Parenthood health centers have been working tirelessly throughout the last year to implement electronic health records and create partnerships with insurance providers who have plans on health insurance marketplaces to ensure that they are positioned to accept all new marketplace insurance plans, while continuing to care for patients who are uninsured.

At OPS, field staff trained on the ACA, learned about all of the ways that it will benefit the women we serve, and built strategic plans for educating the public in our respective areas when ACA sign-up begins in October.