



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, House Appropriations Subcommittee for Health and Human Services

FROM: Gilda Z. Jacobs, President and CEO

DATE: February 28, 2018

SUBJECT: FY 2019 Budget for Health and Human Services

On behalf of the Michigan League for Public Policy, which has been advocating for Michigan families and children for more than 100 years, I am urging you to support several key proposals in the governor's 2019 budget. Understanding the restraints of this year's budget, we hope that you will join us in supporting these continued investments and new funding recommendations to ensure the health and safety of Michigan families.

For 2019, we offer the following recommendations for health services:

- **Support continued investment for the Healthy Michigan Plan:** Passed in 2013, the Healthy Michigan Plan has provided high-quality care to over 670,000 Michiganders with low incomes and has resulted in positive benefits to Michigan's economy. As the fate of the Affordable Care Act is safe, at least in the immediate term, we urge lawmakers to continue to provide the financial support needed to continue this successful program.
- **Fight emerging public health threats:** The governor has recommended additional funding for local public health agencies that are on the front lines in handling issues regarding air and water pollution and their effects on Michiganders.
- **State psychiatrists wage increase:** Working with the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services has requested a wage increase to attract and retain psychiatrists to our state psychiatric hospitals. Our state hospitals provide important services to our most vulnerable and long wait times can be incredibly difficult and painful for those needing services. By increasing wages, pay for psychiatrists will come more in line with those of our Great Lakes neighbors and allow individuals in need of support to more quickly access care.
- **Prenatal smoking prevention:** While we appreciate the recommendation of additional funding for local public health agencies, we hope that the Legislature will look for additional funding to support the reduction of prenatal smoking. Almost 1 in 5 births in Michigan are to a mother who smoked during her pregnancy.

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- **Ongoing support for Flint:** As the Flint water crisis continues, we urge the Legislature to continue its support of the city and its families. Lead exposure is not a one-time thing and has been proven to have long-term effects. Because of that, the needs of the city's residents will change and we hope that lawmakers will continue to support the city and its recovery.

Please contact me if you would like additional information. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.