



June 1, 2018

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

We at the Michigan League for Public Policy, an organization committed to economic opportunity for all regardless of race, place, or income strongly urge you to veto Senate Bill 897 should it reach your desk. We have watched closely as this legislation has moved through the legislative process and while some issues and concerns have been addressed, the bottom line is this: regardless of added exemptions or other changes this bill will result in people losing their healthcare coverage.

As I'm sure you are aware but it bears repeating, the Healthy Michigan Plan has been a boon to our state's economy by increasing state tax revenue and creating thousands of jobs. It also has significantly reduced uncompensated care costs, which has allowed many rural hospitals to stay open. Most importantly, it has resulted in over 680,000 of our fellow Michiganders gaining access to healthcare—with that they are able to get immunizations, see a doctor, and receive treatment for their chronic health conditions. Having healthcare has **helped** people get and keep jobs, not the opposite.

Aside from the complex bureaucratic red tape Medicaid enrollees will have to face and the increased administrative burden on our state caseworkers, this bill does absolutely nothing to address the barriers an individual faces in getting or keeping a job. In fact, it simply directs people to existing resources—resources in many ways that are significantly lacking. We have seen a recent uptick in conversations regarding transit, for example, with stories about trips in and around the Detroit Metro area taking two plus hours. And those stories don't even account for bus delays, busses not showing up, or riders needing to get off a route to drop their kids at day care. Of course, many of the enrollees live in areas where transit just doesn't exist.

Transportation is only one of many hurdles Michiganders face when trying to work. The need for transit, child care, access to jobs and job training is not unique to one zip code or region of our state. Barriers to work exist in every corner of Michigan, from Monroe to Grand Rapids to Sault Ste. Marie.

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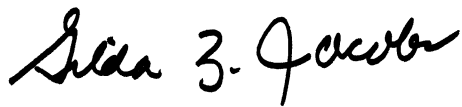
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A UNITED WAY AGENCY

We have been strong supporters of the Healthy Michigan Plan since it was first proposed in 2013 until now. But we worry that work requirements imposed on Healthy Michigan enrollees will significantly threaten the overall success and future of the program. The 680,000 people who rely on this life-saving healthcare coverage deserve better than politically charged policies—they should know that they have this all-important safety net when necessary.

For all of these reasons and so many more, we urge you to veto Senate Bill 897. We believe strongly that this policy does not move Michigan forward and will instead set back the progress Michigan has made. We strongly encourage you to reject this legislation and to instead advocate for policies during the remainder of your term that *remove* barriers to healthcare and jobs.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilda Z. Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gilda Z. Jacobs
President and CEO