



March 21, 2014

Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan League for Public Policy to express concern about the funding recommended in the FY2015 Executive Budget for the Healthy Michigan Plan and other related programs in the Department of Community Health.

We fought long and hard at your side to make the Medicaid expansion a reality. We stood at your side as you signed the Healthy Michigan Plan legislation into law. Now we stand ready to work by your side to implement this program and take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity to improve the health and lives of 500,000 low-income Michiganders. We must make good on the promise.

Recent testimony by the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards as well as the Michigan Association of Health Plans raised concerns about potential underfunding in mental health programs for those currently served by the CMH system and new enrollees in the Healthy Michigan Plan (not currently served by CMH) and in the health plan funding for current Medicaid enrollees and Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees.

It makes little sense to underfund the program, potentially inhibiting its success, particularly when the next two years are 100% federally funded. While we must be good stewards, we must also provide the resources to providers and the opportunity to enrollees to be successful in improving their health and health status. With personal responsibility being such a key focus of the program, it is critical that enrollees have the necessary supports and services to be successful.

It makes no sense to underfund desperately needed mental health services, particularly as implementation of the Mental Health and Wellness Commission recommendations commences. As you may be aware, about one-third of Michigan's uninsured population reported suffering from depression and/or anxiety (*Access to Mental Health Coverage in Michigan*, Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation, Dec. 2013). Untreated mental health needs do not generally resolve themselves, they escalate.

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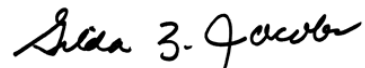
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A UNITED WAY AGENCY

We urge you to carefully review the FY 2015 recommendation in view of the concerns expressed by those who will be providing care and services to this newly eligible population, then work with your legislative partners to fully fund the Healthy Michigan Plan as well as ongoing Medicaid and mental health services.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to positively impact the health, health status and lives of 500,000 Michiganders and their families. We look forward to working with you to make the promise a reality.

Warmest Personal 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

cc: Bill Rustem, Director of Strategy, Office of the Governor
Dennis Muchmore, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
James Haveman, Director, Department of Community Health
Steve Fitton, Michigan Medicaid Director