



December 11, 2014

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

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of the Michigan League for Public Policy, I am writing to urge a veto of bills SB 275 and HB 4118 that would cut the entire family from cash assistance benefits in case of illegal drug usage by the parent.

While these bills talk about adults, as you know, the majority of those benefiting from cash assistance are children. Often, the Family Independence Program is the only means of support for families to pay rent and utilities. An earlier version of the bill explicitly protected children's benefits, but those protections were stripped from the version that passed.

While the League agrees that illicit drug use is damaging to families, we must find ways to help children in these homes. Cutting off heat and the ability to pay rent will destabilize the households, leading to the breakup of families, an event that's particularly damaging to children. In addition, many areas of the state lack resources to treat addiction or lack public transportation to help parents get to treatment centers.

Please veto these bills and look for other ways to help parents break their addictions and enter the workplace.

Sincerely,

Gilda Z. Jacobs  
President and CEO

**PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY**

1223 TURNER STREET • SUITE G1 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906

P: 517.487.5436 • F: 517.371.4546 • WWW.MLPP.ORG

A UNITED WAY AGENCY