

Letter of support for the Healthy Michigan Plan waiver request from Michigan safety net leaders

To whom it may concern:

Michigan's Medicaid expansion program – Healthy Michigan – has been tremendously successful in reaching Michigan's uninsured. In the short time that Healthy Michigan has been available, more than 600,000 patients have received coverage.

The success stories are incredible. We have seen firsthand the impact of unmet medical needs on individuals, families and communities. They are often devastating. But because of Healthy Michigan, patients are establishing care in medical homes that offer high-quality integrated care and thereby, reducing unnecessary emergency room and hospital use. People who had no access to coverage are going to providers for the first time, addressing long-standing medical concerns – and going back to work.

As safety net providers, our roles are evolving. We've helped patients get covered for the first time in their life; helped them navigate finding a provider; helped them understand and use their coverage. Many of us have also shifted our focus to offering dental care. Our safety net is stronger than it has ever been before.

The positive impact Healthy Michigan has had is astounding, and it would be devastating to eliminate coverage for these 600,000 vulnerable patients.

We collectively and wholeheartedly support the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' request for a waiver so that the Healthy Michigan Plan can continue to serve these 600,000 vulnerable Michiganders, and we ask for your approval of this important waiver.

Sincerely,

1. Matt Hudson, Executive Director, Hope Medical Clinic, Ypsilanti and Westland
2. Rima Kudish, MD, Executive Director, Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, Flint
3. Juliann Binienda, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Robert R Frank Student-Run Free Clinic, Wayne State University, Detroit
4. Thomas Wright, D.O., Medical Director, and Carol Wilson, RN, MSN, Clinical Director, Hope House Free Medical Clinic, Big Rapids
5. Kim Faircloth, Executive Director, Northern Care Center, Cheboygan

6. Kelly Herron, MAPS, Executive Director, St. Frances Cabrini Clinic of Most Holy Trinity Church, Detroit
7. Joe Garcia, Executive Director, Cristo Rey Community Center, Lansing
8. David J. Law, Ph.D., Executive Director, Joy-Southfield Community Development Corp., Detroit
9. Mary Jo Byrne, Executive Director, Fountain Clinic, Marshall
10. Gerard Peplowski, Executive Director, Order of Malta Medical and Dental Clinic, Detroit
11. Karen J. Kaashoek RN MBA, Executive Director, Catherine's Health Center, Grand Rapids
12. Joyce Hardy BSHA, RN, Manager, Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic, Essexville
13. Ted Fornetti, DDS, Medical Director, Care Free Dental of Dickinson & Florence Inc., Iron Mountain
14. Melanie Beelen, Executive Director, Baxter Community Center, Grand Rapids
15. Eleanore Kue, MD, Medical Director, His Healing Hands Urgent Care Center, Lansing
16. Barbara A Grinwis, Executive Director, Oasis of Hope Center, Grand Rapids
17. Nancy Zack, Administrator and Edward C. Bush, M.D., President, Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured, Wyandotte