



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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LT. GOVERNOR

September 23, 2019

Michigan Senate  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Senators,

Today I sign Enrolled Senate Bill 362.

The Healthy Michigan Plan was a landmark bipartisan accomplishment, extending coverage to more than 680,000 people, increasing primary care usage, reducing emergency room reliance, and bolstering our economy.

The “work requirements” added to the Healthy Michigan Plan in 2018, before I became governor, undermine this progress. We know from other states that many people lose health care simply because they struggle to navigate complex and unduly burdensome requirements. Moreover, while the supposed rationale is to promote employment, the result is a loss of health care coverage, and that itself is an obstacle to employment.

The legislation I sign today is an important step in addressing work requirements’ shortcomings. This bill gives the beneficiary time to verify compliance with the law and exempts the beneficiary from reporting workforce engagement if the state can verify compliance through other available data. These changes will reduce the number of people who must jump hurdles to provide proof of what they are already doing. Many thanks to the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr.

My administration is doing everything in its power to facilitate compliance with the work requirements. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is partnering closely with health plans, providers, and community organizations to communicate with program participants wherever they are. The Department has also revamped its approach to written correspondence to speak as plainly and clearly as possible. With the encouragement of numerous stakeholders, the Department will defer implementation of new healthy behavior and premium requirements until October 1, 2020, in order to focus on successful implementation of the work requirements.



