



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

April 3, 2023

Director Anita Fox
Michigan Department of Insurance
and Financial Services
530 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Director Fox:

Recently, a federal judge in Texas issued a decision that dramatically affects the healthcare choices of millions of people across the country, including right here in Michigan. In *Braidwood Management, Inc. v. Becerra*, the court struck down the requirement under the Affordable Care Act that health insurers cover and pay for certain preventive care services without additional cost to the patient.

Preventive healthcare without deductibles, coinsurance or copays is one of the most important requirements of the Affordable Care Act. It lowers families' costs and helps ensure that Michiganders address health problems before they become serious, when they can more successfully be treated. It also reduces the costs and burden on our healthcare system and ensures a stable, healthy workforce for Michigan employers. The recent court decision jeopardizes access to basic services like screening for early detection of colon and skin cancer, high blood pressure, and hepatitis. In addition, the court's decision more severely affects women and children, including by eliminating coverage requirements for some types of prenatal care, like screening for preeclampsia, and important tests that help keep our kids safe and healthy.

We must act immediately to help protect the millions of Michiganders whose health will be jeopardized by this decision, so today I am directing the Department of Insurance and Financial Services to do the following:

- Promptly issue guidance to help inform Michiganders of which preventive care services are affected by the court's decision.
- Immediately begin working with Michigan's health insurers to determine what steps can be taken to ensure that Michigan families continue to have affordable coverage for these lifesaving healthcare services.
- Develop recommendations as to other ways the State of Michigan can take action to ensure every Michigander continues to receive preventive healthcare now and in the future.

In addition, I will be calling on both the state legislature and Congress to take swift action to pass laws to help ensure that Michiganders can continue to have access to these critical services without having to worry about whether they can afford it.

The time to act is now. No person in Michigan should have to choose between paying their bills and protecting their health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gretchen Whitmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Director Elizabeth Hertel