



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

December 28, 2018

Michigan Senate  
Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1198. The bill would have amended Michigan law to permanently extend a ban on telemedicine abortion.

Safe medical care for all Michiganders is vitally important. Thankfully, we have a medical community in Michigan that is first class. On a daily basis, our health care professionals thoughtfully and deliberately determine when any health care delivery method is safe, including telemedicine for other areas of care. Telemedicine for medical abortion should not be any different.

Medical abortion is a non-surgical procedure that utilizes a prescription drug to induce an abortion. Telemedicine allows a physician to prescribe and dispense medication by video or teleconference. Objective research shows that medical abortions are safe and that a virtual consultation with a physician is as effective as in-person consultation with a physician.

Telemedicine service is important to our health care delivery system by enabling health care providers the ability to connect with patients across vast distances. Alternatively, telemedicine gives patients, including those in rural areas of Michigan with limited access, greater access in medical care. Ultimately, providing patients with the ability to remotely receive safe and proper medical care, at a time-sensitive period for the patient, is significant.

With that in mind, I have vetoed SB 1198.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder  
Governor