

UPDATES FROM THE CAPITOL

April 29 - May 12, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Happy Mother's Day to All the Moms!

Friday, May 16, 2025

May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference

Monday, May 26, 2025

Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Mackinac Policy Conference Begins (May 27-May 30) - No Session

SENATE UNVEILS DHHS BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY 2026

The Michigan Senate Appropriations Health and Human Services Subcommittee advanced its version of the FY 2026 DHHS budget last week at \$39.31 billion, coming in slightly higher than the Governor's proposed \$39.15 billion recommendation. Chair Sylvia Santana's (D-Detroit) objectives include improving health outcomes for families while protecting essential services and preparing for potential decreases in federal Medicaid support.

Key Senate additions include \$58 million for expanding Flint's Rx Kids program, \$13 million for water affordability initiatives, and \$10 million for reproductive health access grants. The Senate also proposed smaller increases to Medicaid eligibility than Whitmer's plan. The budget did not include funding for building a state psychiatric hospital in Northville or for health care services for incarcerated individuals prior to release. It also failed to include several items funded by opioid settlement dollars that were proposed in the Governor's executive recommendation. However, the Senate added funding in areas such as permanent supportive housing, reproductive health access grants, children's advocacy centers, non-clinical direct care worker pay, and medical debt relief.

SENATE BUDGET PROPOSAL SEEKS TO SUSTAIN CHILD CARE AMID FEDERAL UNCERTAINTY

The Michigan Senate Appropriations MiLEAP Subcommittee has proposed a \$736.2 million budget for the Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential, including a \$63 million increase to sustain child care services in light of declining federal support. The adjustment aims to maintain access to early childhood programs that have relied heavily on federal funding. Senator Rosemary Bayer (D-West Bloomfield) emphasized that child care is essential to Michigan's economy and noted that the Senate's proposal reflects a strategic response to federal funding uncertainty.

In addition to backfilling lost federal dollars, the proposal includes \$23 million to boost payments to child care providers - especially those caring for infants and toddlers - as well as \$40 million to

support advance payments to providers in line with federal regulations. The budget also allocates \$16 million for student service grants and calls for the creation of a Dual Enrollment Task Force to strengthen access to higher education.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDS BOOST TO SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FUNDING

The Michigan School Safety and Mental Health Commission has released its final set of recommendations, urging lawmakers to increase per-pupil funding and address staffing shortages for school-based mental health and safety professionals. Formed in response to the 2021 Oxford High School shooting, the commission consulted with experts, educators, and families to develop ten recommendations aimed at strengthening mental health services and school safety statewide.

A key concern highlighted in the report is Michigan's significant gap in staffing ratios of school counselors, psychologists, and social workers. Our state has just one school psychologist for every 1,500 students - three times higher than the ratio recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists. The commission called for a multi-year plan to meet national staffing standards and retain qualified professionals.

Additional recommendations include promoting trauma-informed practices, expanding social-emotional learning, and ensuring staff are trained to identify and respond to student mental health needs. The commission emphasized that effective change requires consistent funding, fewer policy shifts, and a long-term plan to grow Michigan's school mental health workforce.

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES BILLS TO EXPAND ASSISTED OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

A package of four bipartisan bills aimed at expanding access to assisted outpatient mental health treatment was unanimously advanced by the Senate Health Policy Committee. The legislation, including [SB 219](#), [SB 220](#), [SB 221](#), and [SB 222](#), seeks to improve early intervention by allowing individuals charged with misdemeanors to be diverted into outpatient treatment instead of awaiting crisis-level hospitalization. The bills would enable referrals by psychiatrists, allow law enforcement to act on reasonable cause, and permit courts to order treatment for up to 180 days, with options for extension. Supporters say the changes build on past reforms and will empower families, medical providers, and the courts to address mental health needs proactively and reduce the need for inpatient care.

MAY 11-17 IS WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK IN MICHIGAN, DECLARES GOVERNOR WHITMER

Governor Whitmer has declared May 11-17, 2025, as Women's Health Week in Michigan, highlighting the state's recent efforts to protect access to reproductive health care and improve overall health outcomes for women and girls. The proclamation encourages community members and health professionals to engage in initiatives that support women's health and well-being, from prenatal care to menopause and beyond. It also underscores the critical role Medicaid plays in maternal health, covering nearly half of all births in Michigan.

Check out the Governor's entire proclamation on Women's Health Week [here](#).