

# MSH UPDATES FROM THE CAPITAL

November 20 - December 5, 2025

M<sup>C</sup>ALL  
HAMILTON  
*Advocacy & Public Affairs*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, December 18th, 2025**

Last Session Day for 2025

## HOUSE RELEASES 2026 SESSION CALENDAR

This week, House Floor Leader Bryan Posthumus released the Michigan House of Representatives' 2026 session calendar.

## MDHHS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR HEPATITIS B BIRTH DOSE FOLLOWING FEDERAL DELAY

MDHHS Reaffirms Support for Newborn Hepatitis B Vaccination Following Federal Delay The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a statement this week in response to the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' decision to delay its recommendation on administering the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. The department stressed the importance of early protection against hepatitis B and encouraged families and health providers to continue following the immunization schedules outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. With an estimated 1.6 million Americans living with chronic hepatitis B, postponing the birth dose could reverse years of progress and lead to avoidable infections. The vaccine has a decades-long record of safety and effectiveness, virtually eliminating hepatitis B among children since universal newborn immunization began in 2002.

## AG DANA NESSEL LEADS DUAL LEGAL FIGHTS OVER FEDERAL SNAP AND HOUSING ROLLBACKS

State Attorney General Dana Nessel has launched a pair of legal challenges in recent weeks aimed at protecting vulnerable residents from abrupt federal policy changes. Most recently, Nessel joined 21 other attorneys general in suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) guidance that she argues unlawfully restricts benefits for thousands of lawful permanent residents. The USDA memo directs states to treat refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and other legally admitted immigrants as permanently ineligible for SNAP, despite federal law explicitly allowing these groups to qualify once standard requirements are met. Nessel warns the guidance would create widespread confusion, risk wrongful terminations, and expose states to major financial penalties due to the USDA's misapplication of its own rules.

The lawsuit also highlights a procedural issue: USDA claims that states' 120-day compliance window expired the day after the guidance was released, leaving agencies without enough time to adjust eligibility systems. According to the coalition, this interpretation is impossible under the agency's own regulations and forces states into an untenable choice to violate federal statute or absorb significant administrative liability. The attorneys general are asking the court to block implementation of the memo to ensure families do not lose critical food assistance because of what they view as unlawful and rushed federal policymaking.

Just a week earlier, Nessel joined another multistate lawsuit, this time targeting the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The challenge centers on sweeping changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) program, including sharp reductions in allowable spending on permanent housing, new gender-based service limitations, and penalties tied to local homelessness policies. States argue that HUD's decision to cut traditional funding levels from 90% down to 30% and impose new conditions on housing providers undermines long-standing federal policy, including the widely adopted Housing First model. Nessel and her counterparts contend that HUD enacted these changes without congressional authorization or adequate explanation, and warn the shifts could destabilize housing providers, create uncertainty in local markets, and leave thousands of the most vulnerable at risk of losing long-term housing.

## **BRINKS PRIORITIZES TRANSPARENCY AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN FINAL YEAR**

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks is entering her final year in office with a focus on delivering a smoother, more transparent budget process and protecting long-term investments in education, health, and housing. She emphasized the importance of sustaining initiatives like expanded school meals, science-of-reading programs, workforce credentialing, and new housing development, along with advancing long-sought FOIA expansion to include the Legislature and Governor's office. Brinks noted that continued support for these efforts is essential to improving outcomes over time, particularly in areas like early literacy, affordable housing access, and building a stronger skilled workforce for Michigan's future.

## **GOVERNOR'S LATEST BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

A few of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's latest appointments to state boards and commissions include:

### **9-1-1 Committee**

- Steven Berenbaum – Reappointed
- Timothy McKee Sr. – Reappointed

### **Certificate of Need Commission**

- Patricia Anderson – Succeeds Daniel Velez

### **Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council**

- Jeffrey Parsons – Reappointed

### **Developmental Disabilities Council**

- Kristen Morningstar – Succeeds Belinda Hawks

### **Health Information Technology Commission**

- Todd Belding – Succeeds Hana Alawy
- Charles Hong – Succeeds Alison Arnold

### **Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee**

- Rachael Prusi – Reappointed

