

DEAR MICHIGAN LAWMAKERS: DON'T TAKE HEALTH CARE AWAY FROM MICHIGAN FAMILIES



If you pass Senate Bill 897 — a bill that would require Michigan Medicaid recipients to provide proof they are working 29 hours a week — you will take away health care from the mother who is unable to work when she needs to care for her 7-year-old child.

You will take health care away from the veteran who served our country overseas for a decade and is now struggling to find work upon reentering civilian life.

You will take health care away from the seasonal worker who serves blueberry pancakes and pours coffee at your favorite Up North restaurant, which is closed for two months a year.

You will take health care away from the 19-year-old student athlete working toward his degree.

You will harm these people — and more — and you will waste tax dollars doing it.

The flawed rationale behind this bill is that it will help struggling individuals secure a job. To be clear: Medicaid is not designed as a work program. The vast majority of Medicaid beneficiaries are children, people with disabilities or very poor senior citizens. Others are single mothers; some are caregivers for their elderly parents.

Medicaid exists to ensure Michigan residents have access to life-saving health services and medications that treat medical conditions that make it difficult or even impossible to work. Taking away health care will only put struggling families in greater jeopardy and make it even harder for many to secure steady employment.

While proponents of this bill say people with disabilities, parents with young children, and other groups will be exempt from the work requirement, the reality is they will still have to jump through complex, new administrative hoops or else lose their coverage. Even those who are already working could lose coverage for a full year if they fail to prove they worked enough hours every week.

This bill will spend millions of tax dollars on administrative red tape AND reduce access to care. This is wasteful, nonsensical policy.

We enthusiastically support programs that help Michiganders access good, steady jobs. We believe the state should fully fund child care for low-income families, invest in quality transportation systems to help people get to work and encourage greater access to employer-sponsored health care. Those steps will lead to increased employment in our state.

Senate Bill 897, or any bill like it, won't do that. Most able-bodied adults who need Medicaid are already working, and the remainder face unique challenges that this bill does nothing to address.

The burdensome requirements in Senate Bill 897 will especially harm:

- Parents of young children
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- Struggling families
- Seasonal workers
- Anyone in a job with irregular hours

WE, WHO WORK EVERYDAY TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF EVERYONE IN MICHIGAN, URGE YOU TO OPPOSE THIS HARMFUL, WASTEFUL BILL.

Sincerely,



CONTACT YOUR LAWMAKERS TODAY: SAVEHEALTHYMICHIGAN.ORG