



June 28, 2011

Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of Michigan Primary Care Association and the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) we represent, I am writing to thank you for declining to sign the letter to Congressman Fred Upton, Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, that advocates for full repeal of the Affordable Care Act and more flexibility in the Medicaid program.

In addition to extending secure health coverage for many underserved and uninsured Michigan residents, the Affordable Care Act increases access to high-quality, comprehensive, affordable primary and preventive care by expanding the network of Federally Qualified Health Centers. Today Michigan's FQHCs care for nearly 600,000 individuals and that number is projected to increase to 1.2 million under the Affordable Care Act.

The doors of FQHCs are open to everyone, regardless of insurance status or income, and they boast a broad menu of services including medical care, behavioral health care, dental care, and pharmacy services. FQHCs are on the front lines every day witnessing the value of community members having a health care home. When people have a health care team working for them, whenever and wherever they need it, they use it and stay healthy.

We also applaud passage of the fiscal year 2012 state budget which maintains the integrity of Medicaid by preserving current eligibility categories, benefits, and provider rates to ensure Michigan's 1.9 million Medicaid beneficiaries have access to essential primary and preventive care. Approximately one in eight of the state's Medicaid beneficiaries call a FQHC their health care home. Changes to the Medicaid program would dramatically increase the proportion of uninsured patients, affect the ability of residents who depend on Medicaid for their health insurance to get care, and threaten the fiscal solvency of FQHCs and their ability to care for uninsured individuals.

Michigan Primary Care Association is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. Its mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan.

Michigan Primary Care Association and the state's Federally Qualified Health Centers look forward to working with you to preserve and increase access to health care, which is essential to improving the health status and outcomes for state residents.

Sincerely,

Kim E. Sibilsky
Executive Director
Michigan Primary Care Association

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