



Michigan Association of Health Plans

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MAHP agrees with Gov. Snyder: Exchange bill needed now to ensure proper IT operation

The Michigan Association of Health Plans today applauded Gov. Rick Snyder's comments in a news interview saying that the House should move now on the proposed MiHealth Marketplace health insurance exchange to ensure businesses have sufficient time to develop and install the computer systems need to meet the federal Affordable Care Act's Jan. 1, 2013 deadline.

"Gov. Snyder is exactly right – waiting until summer for a possible Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the exchange portion of the Affordable Care Act imposes a difficult burden on our members," said Rick Murdock, executive director of MAHP. "We have expressed our concerns to lawmakers; we hope the governor's expertise in information technology will carry additional weight."

The Michigan Senate in 2011 approved legislation allowing the state to set up a health exchange, which will give Michigan families and businesses seeking to purchase a health plan a useful "Orbitz" like computer tool to help them select a plan that meets their needs at a cost they can afford. The Legislation is now in the state House of Representatives.

The legislation as it stands allows work on the exchange to halt if the Supreme Court determines the federal requirement to be unconstitutional. It has the support of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and health providers.

Gov. Snyder told MIRS news service: "You can get a some consultant who says you can do this in three months, but I'm just saying better be adding some extra months. Every month you wait, it may not be doable to comply with the deadline."

Murdock said: "We need to start now to put together the complex computer systems needed to allow the exchange to work by Jan. 1. If we miss that deadline, we risk having the federal government impose an exchange that may be run by out-of-state firms without considering the needs of the state."

The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) is an industry voice for Michigan's health care plans. MAHP facilitates communication among members, government, and the industry regarding health care issues of common concern. The mission of the Michigan Association of Health Plans is to provide leadership for the promotion and advocacy of high quality, affordable, accessible health care for the citizens of Michigan.

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