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**Senate Republicans announce *MI Health* plan to help
Michigan's 1.2 million uninsured**
*George: 'MI Health is a bridge for the working uninsured from government
assistance to health care independence'*

LANSING—Senate Republicans today unveiled a comprehensive plan that will help make health insurance in the state affordable and accessible for uninsured Michigan residents, said Sen. Tom George, M.D., lead sponsor of the legislation.

George said the *MI Health* package is an innovative approach that provides consumer protections and has the potential to cover half of the more than 1.2 million uninsured people in the state.

"MI Health is a bridge for the working uninsured from government assistance to health care independence," said George, R-Kalamazoo. "Importantly, it protects consumers from losing coverage if they get sick. It also includes a re-insurance mechanism that partially relieves Blue Cross Blue Shield of its burden."

Central to the plan are its two programs to expand coverage for the uninsured. *MI Access* covers uninsured patients earning under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, while *MI Coverage* protects those earning between 200 and 300 percent of that level.

MI Health is the result of a series of bipartisan workgroup meetings commissioned by Senate Majority Leader Michael D. Bishop last winter and led by Sen. George, chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee.

"The Senate Republican *MI Health* plan is about helping provide affordable, accessible health care to hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents," Bishop said. "We will continue to seek the input and work together with experts in the health care field—the insurance carriers, the hospitals, physicians, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Michigan business owners and job providers to develop the best plan."

The workgroup held several meetings across the state over four months and consulted with numerous stakeholders in the health field, including: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; commercial carriers; health plans; physicians; hospitals; seniors; patients and consumers; disability advocates; business owners and job providers; unions; and the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation.

(More)

MI-HEALTH FACT SHEET

Senate Republicans are addressing the health care crisis through their MI Health legislation, which will make health insurance in the state affordable and accessible.

- **The Problem**
 - More than 1.2 million uninsured residents in Michigan
 - 15,000 new Medicaid patients every month
- **Process and Solution**
 - Senate Majority Leader Bishop appoints workgroups; held meetings across the state; stakeholders involved
 - The solution: MI Health
- **MI Health Summary**
 - *Consumer protections:* Patients will not lose coverage if they get sick
 - *Re-insurance mechanism:* Partially relieves Blue Cross Blue Shield of its burden
 - *MI Access:* Covers uninsured residents earning below 200 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
 - *MI Coverage:* Covers the uninsured between 200 and 300 percent FPL
- **Leverages Federal Dollars**
 - Assesses Blue Cross Blue Shield a PILT (payment in lieu of taxes)
 - Creates an assessment on all claims paid by all insurance companies in Michigan
 - Increases the hospital QAAP (Quality Assurance Assessment Program)
- **The Contributors Who Benefit**
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - Commercial insurance companies
 - Health maintenance organizations
 - Hospitals
 - Physicians
- **Who Benefits the Most: The People of Michigan**

Prepared by Senate Majority Communications Office



Overview

- **Consumer protections:** Patients will not lose coverage if they get sick
- **Re-insurance mechanism:** Partially relieves Blue Cross Blue Shield of its burden

Two Options

- **MI Access:** Covers the uninsured under 200 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- **MI Coverage:** Covers the uninsured between 200 and 300 percent FPL



Stakeholders

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Commercial carriers

Health plans

Physicians

Hospitals

Seniors

Patients and consumers

Disability advocates

Business owners and job providers

Unions

OFIR — Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation