



## **Gongwer: DIFS Director, Other Officials Stress Importance Of Preventative Care** **April 26, 2023**

Preventative health care is one of the most substantial protections under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, and those protections are at risk, Department of Insurance and Financial Services [Director Anita Fox](#) said during a Tuesday press conference. The federal decision in *Braidwood Management, Inc. v. Becerra* from a Texas judge struck down provisions in the ACA that require certain preventative care measures to be fully covered by health insurance. Since then, [Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#) has asked Ms. Fox to protect preventative health care services, and Ms. Fox has announced the state's largest insurers representing 100 percent of the fully insured health insurance market in Michigan have agreed to maintain no-cost preventive health care services.

Lawmakers, like [Rep. Julie Rogers](#) (D-Kalamazoo) are also working on legislation that would codify certain portions of the ACA into state law (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, April 4, 2023](#)). Ms. Fox said preventative health care is one of the most substantial protections in the ACA. It also helps individuals treat conditions early on and also saves money in the system, she said. "When this decision came out, it was clear that it would jeopardize people's health," Ms. Fox said.

Ms. Rogers said she has seen the impact first hand when people lack access to health care. "Fully covered preventative services are absolutely vital to ensuring that patients don't forgo medical treatment which could lead to worse health outcomes," she said. "Preventative health care services help ward off potential illnesses and can identify both acute and chronic conditions that require follow up treatment." Early detection of cancer is key and can sometimes be the difference between life and death, Ms. Rogers said, adding that full coverage of preventative health services has improved health care equity.

Nicole Wells Stallworth, executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, said the court decision threatens access to essential preventative sexual and reproductive health care. "The ACA requirements have transformed how preventative health care services are delivered and saved countless numbers of lives, improved health outcomes and reduced disparities in health care," she said. "The elimination of the ACA requirement creates yet another road block for access to preventative health care, particularly for communities of color and particularly for people with low incomes."

– By Alethia Kasben