

# Health Care Reform

## Simplifying Reform - New Michigan Law

### **New Michigan Law Bans Insurers from Selling Abortion Coverage**

The Michigan Legislature has passed a ban on abortion coverage in private and public insurance plans, requiring women to buy an extra policy before becoming pregnant. The bill provides no exception for rape, incest, or fetal anomalies.

The new law (PA 182 of 2013) will take effect 60 days following passage, meaning that fully insured plans will need to provide options to groups and individuals before March 1, 2014. Self-funded ERISA plans are not impacted by the new law.

Gov. Rick Snyder (R) vetoed a similar bill in late 2012, saying it wasn't "appropriate to tell a woman who becomes pregnant due to rape or incest that she needed to select elective insurance coverage," Right to Life Michigan mounted a challenge, gathering 300,000 signatures on a petition (4 percent of the state's population). That forced the bill back to the Republican-controlled Legislature, which approved it Tuesday night; it does not need the governor's signature. Had legislators not passed the bill, it would have been subject to a statewide vote in 2014.

Most group insurance plans available in Michigan currently provide coverage for abortion, and "some" have a rider that allows it to be excluded. Of the 12 companies offering plans on the marketplace in the state, only one includes elective abortion coverage. The plan is offered in the small group market only by United Healthcare Life Insurance Company, and none of the plans on the individual market offer elective abortion coverage.

Insurance carriers, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan have had limited comment, but will be required to comply with the new law.

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