



September 26, 2024

RE: SB 973, 974, 987, 988, and 1006

Committee Chair Hertel and Members of Senate Health Policy Committee:

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health is an organization of diverse partners representing hospital systems, statewide organizations, local public health advocates and individuals with an interest in the advancement of maternal and child health.

Our members are in support of SB 973, 974, 987, 988 and 1006 as we believe every individual should have access to contraception in the method and at the time of their choosing. Unfortunately, unnecessary barriers make it difficult for many Michiganders, especially in low-income, rural, and medically underserved urban communities, to access their method of choice. In fact, about 1 in 3 birth control users say they've missed taking their pill — which renders their medication less effective — because they couldn't access their next prescription, and about 1 in 4 people using contraceptives report they aren't using their preferred method because of one or multiple barriers.

SBs 987, 988 and 1006 will help ensure access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) in the period immediately postpartum (IPP), meaning shortly after labor and delivery. IPP LARCs are recognized as a clinical best practice by the American College of OB-GYNs, primarily because of their role in preventing rapid repeat pregnancy and unintended pregnancy. LARCs are also known as the most effective form of birth control outside of sterilization.

Michigan Medicaid coverage includes IPP LARCS through current policy. These bills will solidify that coverage in statute, require private insurance coverage for IPP LARCs and ensure that when a provider and patient have determined that an IPP LARC is the best choice, the delivery hospital will stock the contraceptive devices.

We encourage your support for these bills to guarantee that Michigan women have the right to easily make reproductive health care decisions that are best for them. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Amy Zaagman
Executive Director

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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