

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 4111 PREPARED BY TRINITY HEALTH

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Chelsea Community Hospital
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Mercy Hospital – Cadillac
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Mercy Hospital – Grayling
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Trinity Health – one of the ten largest health systems in the country (expecting to soon to be the fourth largest), and the only national health system headquartered in Michigan – appreciates the opportunity to express support for House Bill 4111.

With a belief that expanding access to health care should be a moral and practical imperative of our industry, Trinity Health has long advocated that health insurance exchanges are an essential element of health care transformation. Successful health insurance exchanges will be tailored to the needs of consumers in each state and include robust transparency around price, quality, provider networks, and benefit designs.

House Bill 4111 includes an appropriation of federal funds for health insurance exchange implementation efforts. The overwhelming majority of states in this country have already accepted some form of federal exchange funding. This appropriation will enable Michigan to engage in consumer assistance functions – essentially ensuring that Michigan's exchange best meets the needs of the residents of our state instead of punting this responsibility to the federal government.

Health insurance exchanges provide us the opportunity to transform our health care marketplace to one that is organized around high-value health care. Trinity Health Michigan -- with its 12 acute care hospitals, 40 subsidized health clinics, 29,000 associates, 3,000 physician partners, and 8 home health care agencies -- looks forward to collaborating with the State of Michigan to educate our patients, your constituents, on the opportunities created by a health insurance exchange.

Trinity Health is pleased that Governor Snyder recognized early on the need to offer leadership in Michigan's health insurance marketplace development. An exchange is coming to Michigan – please help shape that effort. Should you have any questions about this support, please contact Tina Weatherwax Grant, VP, Public Policy & State Advocacy.

We serve together in Trinity Health, in the spirit of the Gospel, to heal body, mind and spirit to improve the health of our communities and to steward the resources entrusted to us.

Respect • Social Justice • Compassion • Care of the Poor and Underserved • Excellence