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Contact: Annie Patnaude
(517) 853-9073
(202) 441-5193 *mobile
annie@afphq.org

**Medicaid Expansion Opportunity for State Lawmakers to Drive Down Federal Deficit,
Says Americans for Prosperity-Michigan**

LANSING, Mich.—State lawmakers are faced with a unique opportunity to have a direct impact on driving down the federal deficit by rejecting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (PPACA) proposed Medicaid expansion, Americans for Prosperity-Michigan said today. The House Competitiveness Committee is set to hear testimony on GOP-sponsored legislation (HB 4714) that would expand Medicaid. AFP-Michigan distributed a letter to lawmakers earlier this week opposing the bill.

"State policymakers, including our Governor, have expressed frustration at how the federal government fails to live within its means," said Scott Hagerstrom, state director of Americans for Prosperity-Michigan. **"Now they have a unique opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to federal fiscal responsibility by rejecting the Obama Administration's Medicaid expansion."**

Hagerstrom noted that those states which choose to expand will not receive additional expansion dollars because other states opt out; rather, the total cost of the PPACA will decrease. According to a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, states refusing to expand Medicaid in 2014 will reduce the federal deficit by \$84 billion.

"There are numerous reasons for Michigan to reject any type of Medicaid expansion," said Hagerstrom. "Most of those reasons begin and end with a federal government that has become too large, too intrusive, and in desperate need of reform. The people of Michigan are sick and fed up with government living beyond its means at their expense. This behavior needs to stop here and now."

Americans for Prosperity-Michigan is a statewide organization of more than 87,000 activists committed to strengthening our constitutional government, establishing fiscal restraint, and giving taxpayers greater control over government. We are dedicated to recruiting, training, educating and motivating grassroots activists to be effective in their own communities. Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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