

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE MICHIGAN COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4714
DELIVERED BY TINA GRANT, VP, PUBLIC POLICY & STATE ADVOCACY**

Through our 12 hospitals as well as senior living communities, home health services, and health care clinics across 31 Michigan counties, Trinity Health is committed to ensuring the most vulnerable members of our communities are provided the highest-quality care with compassion and respect. While our recent consolidation with Catholic Health East means we are now one of the largest health systems in the country, and the only national system headquartered in Michigan, we remain true to our mission and committed to improving the health of our communities.

Across Michigan, we support 18 clinics for the poor and underserved and provide more than \$230M in community benefit. Through these services, we see the faces of those who will receive health insurance coverage should you vote to expand Medicaid. These vulnerable members of our communities --- those with incomes between 63% and 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) --- are primarily the working poor in our state. Often working two part time jobs -- perhaps in the service industry, agriculture, or small family run businesses -- and still not able to afford health insurance coverage. This is because, unlike mine and probably most in this room, their employers don't subsidize their health insurance.

Please allow me to share one quick story that represents the needs of so many among us, as well as depicts the moral and business imperatives for extending health insurance.

Just last week, the Muskegon Community Health Project had a family come in seeking assistance to manage the dad's diabetes. He recently lost his full-time job due to the company's budget cuts and is working part-time at a gas station without health benefits. For years, his wife has worked at a local factory but has never been provided health benefits. They are both working, yet making little above minimum wage. Because money is tight, dad is eating foods that are inexpensive and lack the nutrition needed to adequately manage his disease and is unable to afford to fill his medications as prescribed. As a result, he's now very sick and struggling to work his entire shift. He should be included in one of the excellent patient-centered medical home models of care offered in West MI, but the family simply can't afford to purchase health insurance to grant him this access. We were able to provide pharmacy assistance as well as diabetes education, but that won't address his long-term health needs. What this dad desperately needs is health insurance coverage so that he can get well and continue to meet the financial needs of his family.

Because there are so many fathers, and mothers, across Michigan in similar circumstances. We support House Bill 4714; with exception of the 48 month lifetime cap. We believe the reforms that are being discussed are meaningful and will go a long way to improve the program's efficiency and sustainability. I've distributed a policy card, in addition to my testimony, titled "Innovating Medicaid" that offers recommendations around innovative payment and delivery models and personal accountability for health outcomes. Trinity Health is pleased that many of these innovations are being seriously discussed.

Thank you for your time today, and more importantly, for your interest in improving Michigan's health. We commit to continue to work with you to find a uniquely Healthy Michigan solution.

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

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