

POLICY PULSE

legislative update



November 2019 Edition

LOCAL UPDATES

Bay Area

We would like to congratulate Mayor Kathleen Newsham who was re-elected Mayor of Bay City. She will serve until 2024.

Kristen McDonald Rivet, 2nd Ward and Chris Girard, 6th Ward were newly elected to the Bay City Commission and will serve until 2024.

Brentt Brunner, 4th Ward and Ed Clements, 8th Ward were also re-elected to the commission and will serve until 2024.

We wish them all great success during their service to Bay City and look forward to working with them to continue the community's positive momentum.



Mayor Kathleen Newsham

Saginaw County

A message from Covenant HealthCare:

A critical message regarding healthcare in our region

Following Governor Gretchen Whitmer's line-item vetoes to the Michigan budget issued on September 30, 2019, policymakers have now gone on legislative break until December without restoring funding for any impacted programs. This inaction will have a significant negative impact on patients who live in the Thumb and depend on rural hospitals for their care.

Covenant HealthCare has a long history of working together with the rural hospitals of the Thumb to ensure patients can receive the care they need. We recognize the important role these independent critical access hospitals have in the care of people living in the Thumb. With budget approval stalled, these hospitals can expect to see a shortfall of more than \$25 million in state payments from the Rural Access Pool and OB Stabilization Fund starting in December. The loss of this funding is a catastrophic blow to these small hospitals and will hurt quality and access to care for residents of the Thumb.

While the budget stalemate is unrelated to healthcare spending, the implementation of the vetoed budget will have real and lasting impacts if not resolved quickly upon the Legislature's return. Please join Covenant HealthCare in encouraging the Governor and the Legislature to restore

this funding quickly.

We continue to advocate for our healthcare partners as supplemental budget negotiations are made.



Commissioner Kristen McDonald Rivet



Commissioner Chris Girard



Commissioner Brentt Brunner



Commissioner Ed Clements

STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATES

The Michigan Legislature is given the last two weeks of November off. Prior to this break we were tirelessly advocating for supplemental bills that will fill holes affecting the Great Lakes Bay Region in the FY2020 budget.

SB 492: Good Jobs for Michigan UPDATE

On October 17, Senate Economic and Small Business Development Committee heard testimony on SB 492: Good Jobs for Michigan. The purpose of this bill is to

eliminate the sunset and cap on this program for businesses that decide to invest in our economy and state. Testimony was given by multiple economic development agencies and communities about how companies have come in and revitalized the area in which they now occupy. It is important for Michigan to stay competitive with surrounding states, the Good Jobs for Michigan initiative does just that. We continue to wait for further action to be taken on this bill.

Going PRO Talent Fund UPDATE

On November 12, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Talent and Economic Development heard testimony from those who have been affected by these dollars to train employees beyond entry level. Since the veto by the Governor in early October many programs and companies stand in limbo, unsure what to do in 2020. The subcommittee was very responsive to the testimony from the multitude of companies who shared their stories. We hope the Governor will reconsider her actions and work with the Legislature to restore necessary funding.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATES

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

As explained in the *Policy Pulse: Special Update*, found below, the USMCA is critical for not only the U.S. economy but Michigan's economy as well. The Trump administration has partnered with state and local governments to invest in airway infrastructure.

Over the past two years, the U.S. Department of Transportation has delivered more than \$255.3 million to airports across Michigan. The following airports have received funds: Detroit Metro Airport received \$33.82 million to reconstruct a runway and reconstruct a taxiway. Wayne County's Willow Run Airport received \$10 million to reconstruct a runway. Flint Bishop International Airport received more than \$8.7 million to construct a taxiway, rehabilitate a runway and reconstruct runway lighting. Kent County's Gerald R. Ford International Airport received \$5 million to rehabilitate its terminal building and \$11 million to rehabilitate an apron.

The significant investment in Michigan's airway infrastructure proves that our state is a healthy home for jobs and trade. Our farmers, employers and workers will benefit greatly from fair trade policies and open markets with Mexico and Canada.

The USMCA has not been ratified yet, but Republicans and Democrats alike in Washington D.C. recognize the benefit of trade for our state, its businesses and their employees.

[Policy Pulse: Special Update](#)

On behalf of our members, the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce will continue to monitor public policy that impact our region, our

communities and most importantly--your business!

Any questions or concerns contact Director of Government Affairs
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