

# MichUHCAN

## Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network

8846 Robindale, Detroit, MI 49239 \* <http://michuhcan.tripod.com>  
\* State-wide (248) 477-7911

**March 2005**

### Fundraiser

Saturday April 30, 2005 at the Redford Theatre, MichUHCAN is holding a fundraiser – come at 1:30 PM for the organ music and watch ET. Send your check for \$15 per adult and \$4 for children under 12 to:  
Selma Goode, treasurer  
8846 Robindale  
Detroit, MI 48239

We will not mail you your tickets, but will hold them at the door. Please come to:  
Redford Theatre  
17360 Lahser Rd  
Detroit, MI

### AMSA Rally for Universal health Care!

The annual Spring American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Rally for universal health care will be held on Wednesday April, 20 2005 in Lansing on the capital steps from noon to 4 PM. Medical students from around the state will attend.

Please show up to support AMSA and universal health care coverage.

### LAWSUIT DISMISSED

On February Second at a hearing in Lansing the court dismissed our “health care as a right” lawsuit. The Judge ruled that the language of the state Constitution and the statute that we relied on was too vague for her to find there was a right to health care. MichUHCAN has authorized an appeal. We expect to get a reversal but there will be no ruling for at least six to eight months.

### YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

Could be, if your dues aren't up to date (check your mailing label).

### MediCAID Fight and Press Conference

On March 17th MichUHCAN President Marjorie Mitchell addressed the press in a press conference organized by SEIU. Gov. Granholm could not attend due to illness but Sharon Geier appeared on her behalf.

The Governor, Director Geier, speakers for the AARP, the AFL-CIO (Pres. Mark Gaffney), Michigan League for Human Services, and other health advocacy groups all said there should be NO Medicaid cuts! Medicaid covers hundreds of thousands of children and one seventh of Michigan's population.

Mitchell, President of MichUHCAN put it in context. “We must win these defensive fights. We at MichUHCAN join in saying ‘do not cut Medicaid!’ But we have this fight every year, and what we really need is universal coverage!”

We won part of the Medicaid fight in Washington D. C. on March 17th when the Senate voted 52-48 for NO cuts in Medicaid. Seven Republican joined the 44 Democrats and one independent to defeat the Medicaid cuts. Both Senators Levin and Stabenow voted OUR way. Call them and thank them for their help. [Levin (202) 224-6221, and Stabenow (202) 224-4822]

But the House, in a close vote (218-214) voted to cut Medicaid. Nine of Michigan's 15 Representatives voted for the cuts. Six Michigan Representatives did the right thing. Call and thank them!

Contact information (and their vote) are on the back. If your representative voted right call and thank them! Representatives who voted wrong have earned complaints from all of us! If you live in their district call twice.

### Join MichUHCAN!

Be part of the health care solution. Return this form with **\$20 dues** (\$5 low in-come). **MichUHCAN, 8846 Robindale, Detroit, MU 48239**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## BULK DRUG BUYING

On September 26, 2004 the Governor appeared at the MOSES public meeting and announced her MiRX program as buying drugs in bulk for the uninsured and underinsured. On Friday, February 25, 2005 the chair of the MOSES health committee, Fr. Joseph Gagnon, and Gary Benjamin, visited the Medicaid office in Lansing to inquire about how this system was working. The government is not actually buying drugs in bulk as was called for by the legislation MichUHCAN supported last year.

However, the MiRX card is a free card provided by the State to anyone whose income is below 300% of poverty. The only eligibility requirements are that you have no other prescription coverage (so if you have health insurance but no prescription coverage you are eligible); be a resident of Michigan; apply; and have income as follows:

Family members: Income level:

1	Below	\$27,930
2		\$37,470
3		\$47,010
4		\$56,550
5		\$66,090
6		\$75,630
7		\$85,170
8		\$94,050

The income levels are more generous than past cards and the card carries discounts at participating pharmacies of 5% to 25%. There are no category requirements such as age or disability. For more information call toll free 1-866-755-6479 or go to [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch) and look for the MiRX application to download.

The state gets a report back from the pharmacies as to how many prescriptions for each company have been filled and reports that to the drug companies. The companies send the state rebate checks which help fund the Medicaid program.

For information about this and other drug programs call the MMAP programs at:

Genesee County (989) 755-3120  
National Number (800) 803-7174  
Redford (313) 483-6404

This is a major benefit for the people of the state and MOSES; MiVOICE; and MichUHCAN were the key advocacy groups that pushed it forward!! We would like people to sign up and get all 3-4 million Michiganians enrolled.

Cass and Forest) in Detroit. Invited to participate on the panel are Chris Allen, newly hired Executive Director of the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority (DWCHA); Council President Pro Tem Ken Cockrel; a representative of Physicians for a National Health Plan; and County Health Director Anahid Kulwiki has confirmed as a panel member. Cockrel was instrumental in getting the Detroit City Council's endorsement of the Health Care Finance Commission Resolution.

The DWCHA has as its goal health care for all of the residents of Wayne County, including Detroiters. See their website at [www.dwcha.org](http://www.dwcha.org). The UUU has a website at [www.UUUDetroit.org](http://www.UUUDetroit.org).

The Authority has had several meetings and organized two advisory boards. MichUHCAN members Selma Goode and Gary Benjamin are on the community advisory board and MichUHCAN members Jewel Ware, Chair of the Wayne County Commission, and Mary Ann Mahaffey, President of the City Council have been appointed as members of the nine member Authority Board.

## Congressional Contact Information:

Voted to cut Medicaid:

Hon. Dave Camp	4th District (202) 225-3561
Hon. Vernon Ehlers	3rd District (202) 225-3031
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2nd District (202) 225-4401
Hon. Joe Knollenberg	9th District (202) 225-5802
Hon. Thaddeus McCotter	11th District (202) 225-8171
Hon. Candace Miller	10th District (202) 225-2106
Hon. Mike Rogers	8th District (202) 225-4872
Hon. Joe Schwartz	7th District (202) 225-6276
Hon. Fred Upton	6th District (202) 225-3761

Call and complain especially if you are in one of these 9 districts.

Six Michigan Representatives did the right thing. Call and thank them!

Hon. John Conyers	14th District (202) 225-5126
Hon. John Dingell	15th District (202) 225-4071
Hon. Dale Kildee	5th District (202) 225-3611
Hon. Carolyn Kilpatrick	13th District (202) 225-2261
Hon. Sandy Levin	12th District (202) 225-4961
Hon. Bart Stupak	1st District

## UNION OF UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED

The UUU is holding its first forum. The topic will be the Health Care Authority and the prospect for universal health care access or coverage in the City of Detroit. The meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 6:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church at 4605 Cass Avenue (corner of

## Michigan Health Care Resolution Status Report

As of mid-March, 24 local governments and organizations have endorsed the Resolution. Our goal is to obtain at least 50 Endorsements by the end of 2005 and then request that Governor Granholm establish a commission to study the financing of health care in Michigan in order to make it more efficient, equitable, and all-inclusive of Michigan citizens.

The Resolution endorsements include Detroit, Sanilac County, and Bishop Wendell Gibbs and Dean Stephen Bancroft of the Episcopal Archdiocese of Michigan.

Contact us for whatever you need to get the Resolution endorsed in your community, including Resolution copies, background information, and knowledgeable folks who will show up and help you through the process (Gary Benjamin, Michigan Legal Services, cell 313-590-6136 or email -- gbenjamin@michiganlegal.org).

### Sample Resolution:

Whereas, studies done in other states have found that there is enough money in the health system of those states to provide adequate health insurance for every citizen of that state; and

Whereas, the same appears to be true in Michigan, that is that there is enough money in the health care system to provide health insurance for all the citizens of our state; and

Whereas, because of the manner in which the health care delivery system is funded, and because the administrative costs of the system as it is presently structured, the money is ineffectively and unwisely spent; and

Whereas, our citizens are increasingly losing coverage because of the cost of insurance to employers and to government; and

Whereas the Michigan economy is losing jobs faster than the rest of the country which is causing our citizens to lose health insurance coverage; and

Whereas, health is declared to be a "primary public concern" according to our state constitution [Article 4, Section 51]; and

Whereas under our laws the state is supposed to create a plan to provide access to health care to all segments of society; [MCL 325.2010 (2)];

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

We, \_\_\_\_\_ [Council or Commission name] hereby call on Governor Granholm to establish a commission to study the financing of health care in Michigan and to make recommendations to change that financing so that all people in Michigan shall have health insurance in a system which is affordable; cost efficient; provides comprehensive benefits; promotes prevention and early intervention; eliminates disparities in access and in mental health care; provides continuity of care (is portable from one job to another)); protects consumer choice; and, is easy to use.

We believe that working together we can produce such a system and we consider it to be a high priority for the citizens of \_\_\_\_\_.

## List of Endorsers:

### Organizations:

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)  
Region IV  
11th Congressional District Democratic Party  
Committee  
Free Clinics of Michigan (FCOM)  
Gray Panthers - Metro North  
Green House  
Henry Ford Health System  
Irish American Unity Conference  
Michigan Democratic Party  
Michigan Legal Services  
MichUHCAN)  
Midwest Aids Prevention Project (MAPP)  
MOSES  
UAW 735 Retirees Chapter  
Wayne County Medical Society

### People:

Dean Steve Bancroft, Episcopal Church  
Bishop Wendell Gibbs, Episcopal Church

### Governments:

Detroit  
Farmington Hills, City of  
Ferndale, City of  
Hamtramck, City of  
Madison Hts, City of  
Mt Pleasant, City of  
Pleasant Ridge, City of  
Sanilac, County of  
Van Buren Twp