



Dear Senate Health Policy Committee Member,

SB 612 and 613 will prohibit insurers operating in Michigan from offering – and citizens of Michigan from using their own private dollars to purchase – insurance coverage for abortion care. The bills specifically ban all abortion coverage in any state health care exchange established pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—except in cases where a woman’s life is at risk. While the legislation suggests that such coverage could be obtained through a supplemental, single-service rider, such riders are not a workable policy. The result will undoubtedly be the loss of comprehensive insurance coverage for the women of Michigan.

In the current private health insurance marketplace, most health plans provide coverage for abortion services as part of a broader health care package. However, there is nothing in Michigan law that requires any employer or individual to purchase health insurance coverage that includes abortion care. The decision of what coverage to select is left up to the purchaser. In contravention of the current free market system, SB 612 and 613 restrict what individuals and employers may purchase with their private funds in the private health insurance marketplace. With the majority of private insurance plans covering abortion today, this bill would constitute an unprecedented restriction on women — taking benefits away that they currently have today.

This legislation is particularly harmful to the most vulnerable women. The bills have no exception for the on-going health of a woman, nor do they include an exception for rape or incest. The bills only allow insurance coverage for abortions in the most narrow of circumstances – if a woman’s life is at risk. This standard excludes many circumstances where a woman’s health could be at risk if she continues a pregnancy. For that reason, it might force a woman to risk her health because she cannot afford to end her pregnancy, even though it is necessary to protect her health. The legislation also does not allow insurance coverage if a woman has a planned pregnancy that goes horribly wrong. If a woman needs an abortion due to a fetal anomaly, she would be forced to pay for the care she needs out-of-pocket – which, like if her health was threatened, is likely to cost several thousand dollars at a minimum.

Singling out abortion care – a service that only women need – and marginalizing it from all other care is discriminatory toward women. Access to affordable health care – including abortion care – is critical to protecting the health of women and their families. Women in difficult circumstances would be forced to pay for the care they need out-of-pocket – which could cost thousands of dollars – despite that they have health insurance. Women need abortion care for a number of reasons, including to protect their health or because a pregnancy has gone wrong; prohibiting insurance coverage only serves to harm these women who are already in very difficult circumstances.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote “no” on SB 612 and 613. Women and their families, in consultation with their physicians, decide to seek abortion care for a number of reasons. Prohibiting insurance coverage only serves to harm these women who may already be in very difficult circumstances. We urge you to reject this extreme measure and leave decisions about insurance coverage to the citizens of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Shelli Weisberg  
Legislative Director  
ACLU of Michigan

Sarah Scranton  
Executive Director  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

More importantly, the bill would eliminate existing requirements that a pistol be transported only for explicit lawful purposes. Currently, there are strict guidelines for transporting weapons in a vehicle. Michigan State Police Uniform Crime Report data reveals that during the past three years, over 18,000 suspects were arrested for a weapons offense. Many of these arrests were for unlawfully carrying a pistol in an automobile. I share the concern with law enforcement officials that this legislation would allow potential criminals to lawfully transport a weapon to the scene of a crime.

The bill, if enacted, would also contravene a corresponding provision found in Section 12a(h) of Enrolled House Bill 4530, which I have signed into law this date. That provision provides for the transportation of an unloaded pistol in a *locked* compartment, not just a wrapper or container as this bill purports.

My veto of this bill does not affect the rights of hunters, range target shooters or concealed weapon permit holders to transport their weapons in a lawful manner as is currently provided by law.

For the above stated reasons, I am returning Enrolled House Bill 4532 without signature.

Sincerely,  
John Engler  
Governor

January 9, 2001.

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I have signed Enrolled Senate Bill 1170 codifying Michigan court decisions that prohibit a civil action for money damages for the "wrongful life" of an infant as the result of birth control failure or an undiagnosed prenatal disability. This legislation states Michigan's commitment to the belief that the benefits of a child's life always outweigh the cost of raising the child.

✓ However, I am returning to the House of Representatives Enrolled House Bill 4828, and to the Senate Enrolled Senate Bill 645 and Enrolled Senate Bill 794, the effect of which is to impair certain private contracts that provide health insurance coverage for reproductive services.

In doing so I note that persistent questions were raised about the administration, enforcement, cost and constitutionality of this legislation which were not adequately addressed during the abbreviated legislative debate.

For these reasons I am returning Enrolled House Bill 4828 and Enrolled Senate Bills 645 and 794 without signature.

Sincerely,  
John Engler  
Governor

#### Announcements by the Clerk

December 27, 2000

The following entitled enrolled bill was presented to the Governor on December 13, 2000, at 2:28 p.m., for his approval:

**Enrolled House Bill No. 5028, being**

An act to designate the part of highway I-75 located in Monroe county as the "Medal of Honor Recipient and American Legion Memorial Highway"; and to prescribe certain duties of the state transportation department.

The enrolled bill, having not been approved as of December 27, 2000, at 2:28 p.m., did not become law in accordance with the provisions of Art. IV, Sec. 33 of the Constitution.

Gary L. Randall  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

December 27, 2000

The following entitled enrolled bill was presented to the Governor on December 13, 2000, at 2:36 p.m., for his approval:

**Enrolled House Bill No. 5996, being**

An act to name a certain portion of highway M-59 and a certain portion of highway M-36 the "Korean War 50th Anniversary Memorial Highway"; and to prescribe certain duties of the state transportation department.