

2017-18 Legislative Priorities: *Health Care*

GOAL: Advocate Market-Friendly, Consumer-Driven Health Care Options

Chamber Members Advocate:

- Repealing the onerous burdens on job providers and insurers under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reverse the trend of sharp rate increases and avoid further departure of insurers from the federal exchange.
- Supporting state and federal efforts that enable employers to provide cost-effective health care benefits, expand flexibility, competition and choice in the health insurance marketplace and promote and improve employee health status while opposing taxes on health insurance claims or premiums.
- Opposing state and federal health insurance mandates and policy changes that ignore pricing differentials and/or the important role of the free market, especially in the area of benefit plan design including benefit mandates, development of preferred networks, pharmacy management tools and wellness programs.
- Opposing efforts to limit an employer or insurer's ability to use mail-order pharmacies, preferred pharmacy networks or other innovative pharmacy benefit management (PBM) tools to help manage pharmaceutical utilization and costs.
- Fighting fraud, waste and abuse in Michigan public service programs, including Medicaid, Healthy Michigan and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.



WHY?

Rising health care costs continue to be a significant financial threat to Michigan's businesses. Policymakers should avoid implementing costly state and federal health insurance mandates and other plan design restrictions and instead focus on implementing market-friendly, consumer-driven reforms that will enable job providers and individuals to purchase affordable coverage in the private health insurance marketplace.