



MI SIBS News

MICHIGAN SUPPORTING AND INCLUDING BROTHERS & SISTERS



Happy 250th Anniversary to the USA!

As we celebrate our nation's Semiquincentennial—250 years of history—I want to highlight the issues shaping the future of care for our siblings with disabilities. In no particular order are three main concerns:

- ☆ Federal Medicaid Changes
- ☆ Direct Care Worker Crisis
- ☆ Michigan's overhaul of its behavior health system

The “**One Big Beautiful Bill**” Act (H.R. 1 2025), the budget reconciliation bill, makes major, permanent **changes to Medicaid** eligibility, financing, and operations that will take effect in phases through 2026–2027. [Click here](#) for Michigan-specific Medicaid H.R. 1 information.

Additionally, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is undergoing its most significant overhaul in decades, driven by the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (H.R. 1 2025). These changes affect eligibility, work requirements, cost sharing, and allowable purchases. [Click here](#) for facts about changes to Michigan's Medicaid Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Bottom Line: H.R. 1 will fundamentally reshape Medicaid, with permanent work requirements, tighter eligibility rules, and reduced federal support. States must adapt quickly to avoid coverage losses and maintain access for eligible individuals. MDHHS (Michigan) is still developing how it will implement these changes.

In the last 20 years since my siblings became “self-determined” in Oakland County, the **Direct Care Worker Crisis** has gotten much worse! Today we are anxiously waiting for the FY27 State of Michigan budget to see if, in fact, direct care workers will receive increased wages to keep up with inflation and cost of living. Lawmakers have approved increases, however, the budget must fund those commitments. Learn more about the funding shortfall [here](#). I encourage you to **join the Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition** and [click here to contact your lawmakers](#). For more information, www.dcw-michigan.org.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) planned an overhaul of its mental health system, which oversees \$4.9 billion in programs. After the decision on last year's [lawsuit](#), the state has not commented on what that will look like. And, just last week, Elizabeth Hertel, director of MDHHS announced she is stepping down from her role with her last day set for June 30, 2026. I expect additional leadership changes after Governor Whitmer leaves office on January 1, 2027. The new governor will select the next MDHHS director. Stay tuned.

That said, I hope that you're inspired to TAKE ACTION on these matters as they will (do) affect our siblings --- Please read page 2.

I wish you a very happy and safe 4th of July and many blessings for the rest of the summer.

Stay cool,

Joy Nagy Wilkins

TAKE ACTION

- 1. Contact your Legislators.** Tell them to [protect Michigan's Direct Care Workforce](#).
- 2. Vote in the Upcoming Primary.** Key dates and deadlines are provided by [Disability Rights Michigan](#).
- 3. Share Your Caregiving Story!** Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council (MISILC) wants to hear from caregivers and people who are being cared for. Sharing your family story will help shape a future where caregivers are supported, appreciated, and recognized. misilc.org/calling-all-caregivers

 August 4 Primary Election: Key Dates	
NOW	Request an absentee ballot
JUNE 25	First day that you can vote in person with an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office
JULY 20	Last day to register to vote online (starting July 21, you'll need to register in person at your local clerk's office)
JULY 21	Last day to drop your ballot in the mail (after July 22, we recommend returning your ballot in person)
AUGUST 3 @ 4pm	Deadline to vote in person with an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office, if you're already registered to vote where you live (after that, you must vote at your polling place on Election Day)
AUGUST 4	Election day! Polls are open from 7am until 8pm. If you need to register, you can register at your local clerk's office until 8pm



FROM THE SIBLING LEADERSHIP NETWORK

SLN's Sibling Empowerment Meet-Up @ First Saturday of the Month from 11am to 12pm ET. Please join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86203113313?pwd=WhZaAaT7hiYY1WEEnYm7WaOmbV77qM1.1>

Meet-Up resources are available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

A collaborative, state-wide [virtual event](#) called "Everyday Access for All" will be held on July 9 from 9:00am-12:00 noon.

Live events will be held on July 22 in [Grand Rapids](#), on July 25 in [Ann Arbor](#), and on August 20 in [Pontiac](#).

WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES RALLY

Wednesday, September 23

Join us at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing for the Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally! Many Michigan counties will be represented. Check with your local CMH organization for specifics or at cmham.org.

FREE MI SIBS WEBINAR 6:30PM EST

Wednesday, September 30

Back by popular demand, Michele P. Fuller, Esq, founder of Michigan Law Center, PLLC will provide guidance on legal matters relating to our siblings with disabilities.

Save-the-Date!

MI SIBS (Michigan Supporting & Including Brothers and Sisters)

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