



HIV AIDS ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN

CARES OF SOUTHWEST MI

629 Pioneer St
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269.381.2437 | caresswm.org

GRAND RAPIDS RED PROJECT

401 Hall St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616.456.9063 | redproject.org

HEALTH EMERGENCY LIFELINE PROGRAMS (HELP)

1726 Howard St.
Detroit, MI 48216
313.832.3300 | helpoffice.org

LANSING AREA AIDS NETWORK

913 W. Holmes Rd. #115
Lansing, MI 49810
517.394.3560 | laanonline.org

THOMAS JUDD CARE CENTER AT MUNSON MEDICAL CENTER

5041 N. Royal Dr. #1
Traverse City, MI 49684
231.935.7548 | munsonhealthcare.org

UNIFIED-HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND

3968 Mt. Elliot St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313.446.9800 | miunified.org

WELLNESS AIDS SERVICES

311 E. Court St.
Flint, MI 48502
810.232.0888 | wellnessaids.org

December 2, 2021

The Honorable Bronna Kahle
Chair, House Health Policy Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairwoman Kahle and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

The HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan (HAAM) supports the revision and passage of Senate Bill 412 to preserve access to vital medications for vulnerable patients. We appreciate the consideration of the House Policy Committee and the opportunity to provide additional information about the impact of this legislation.

There about 17,000 people living with HIV in Michigan, and 700 to 800 people are newly diagnosed with the virus in the state each year. Consistent care and treatment with antiretroviral medications allow people with HIV to live healthy lives with a normal lifespan. Clinicians work closely with their patients to identify the drug regimen that is most appropriate and effective for them. Avoiding complications and drug resistance that can arise when a person misses regular medication treatment are important to improve health, save lives and reduce costs over time.

In addition, when a person is virally suppressed, meaning their HIV is undetectable, they are not able to transmit HIV to a partner. This is known as U=U, or undetectable = untransmittable. Uninterrupted access to medications as prescribed is thus essential for the health of the individual and from a public health perspective to prevent new HIV infections in the community.

For these reasons, it is essential that patients have access to medications as prescribed without delay and without barriers. We respectfully request your support to codify the carved out classes of medications and ensure their continued protection for patient access.

Thank you,

Teresa Roscoe
COO, Health Emergency Lifeline Programs/Corktown Health
Member, HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan