



Legislation Update

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7/26/2010

ELECTION UPDATE:

The election primaries will be taking place in August, 2010. It is an important year for Michigan with choosing our next governor as well as members of Congress. Michigan continues to have great economic challenges that will require us as constituents to stay informed on the issues.

HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE:

In May I had the opportunity to attend two Michigan House Health Policy Committee hearings in Lansing on the implementation of the Health Care Reform legislation here in Michigan. The House Health Policy Committee is trying to be proactive in understanding the implications of the new *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* regarding who will be the stakeholders and what initiatives need to be developed to implement this new legislation.

There are several ways we as nurses and constituents can stay informed on the implementation process:

1.) Senator Stabenow's Health Care Reform Online Resource Center:
(<http://stabenow.senate.gov/healthcare>)

2.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
(<http://www.healthcare.gov>)

Go to the HHS home page and “click” on “*email updates*” to subscribe to weekly announcements regarding the implementation process. These email alerts contain specific information regarding each piece of the new Health Care Reform Bill.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM:

There are several initiatives in the new Health Care Reform Bill that will have an impact on our maternal-infant population.

1.) Most recently the Dept. of Health and Human Services announced \$88 million in grants to support evidenced based home visiting programs that are designed to improve maternal and child health. Our state of Michigan was awarded over \$2 million in grant money to apply towards programs in our state for at-risk families to provide such services as health care, developmental services, early childhood education, parenting skills, child abuse prevention and nutrition education or assistance.

- 2.) The Affordable Care Act also created funding for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund. Grant money for up to \$25 million per year for 2010-2019 has been designated to provide pregnant and parenting teens and women a seamless network of supportive services to help them complete their education, gain access to healthcare, child care, family housing and other critical support.
- 3.) Nursing education has also received extensive support in the new Health Care Reform bill:
 - (1.) \$30 million for encouraging over 600 nursing practitioners to attend school full time so they have better odds of completing their education and becoming part of the primary health care team.
 - (2.) \$15 million for the operation of 10 nurse-managed health clinics which assist in the training of nurse practitioners.
 - (3.) See the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website, for a complete list of nursing education related legislation:
(<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government/supportedlegislation.htm>)