



## **Capitol Corner**

### **An ECIC Legislative Update**

### **October 12, 2007**

#### **Legislature Begins Work on Setting Budget Targets**

The legislature began work this week on setting budget targets for each department. As part of the budget agreement that included raising new revenue, passing governmental reforms, the legislative leadership agreed to cut \$433.3 million out of the budget for the new fiscal year.

Legislative leadership will continue to meet with the Administration to set overall spending targets for each of the state departments. Then the appropriation conference committees for each budget will work on the underlying budget detail. Those “conference reports” will be forwarded to the House and Senate for an up or down vote. Once passed by each chamber the bills will be sent to the Governor to be signed or vetoed or line-item vetoed.

#### **Recall Efforts Announced Against Ten Legislators**

Leon Drolet, Chair of the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, announced the first ten legislators to be targeted for recall from their elected office for their vote(s) to increase taxes to help resolve the state’s budget crisis. Five Democrats and five Republicans were announced as targets for the recall efforts.

The ten targeted legislators are:

- Rep. Steve Bieda (D-Warren)
- Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville)
- Rep. Robert Dean (D-Grand Rapids)
- Rep. Andy Dillon (D-Redford)
- Rep. Ed Gaffney (R-Grosse Point Farms)
- Rep. Mary Valentine (D-Muskegon)
- Rep. Chris Ward (R-Brighton)

Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell)  
Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland)  
Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Muskegon)

The next step in the recall process is to file the appropriate recall petition language with the county clerk for where the legislator represents. For a state representative or senator, citizens need to collect signatures equal to 25% of the votes cast for governor in that lawmaker's district. The signatures must be collected within six months. If the signatures are verified, and the recall petition certified, an election will be held to determine whether the legislator is recalled or not.

## **House Passes HB 4607, 0-3 Secondary Prevention Statute Language**

The House passed HB 4607, a bill to codify language as to how the 0-3 Secondary Prevention program dollars should be spent. Previously, the language has been inserted annually, as "boilerplate," into three appropriations bills for the Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services, and School Aid Fund.

The state budget already allocates approximately \$6.2 million for the 0-3 Secondary Prevention program within the three state department budgets: \$524,000 in the Department of Community Health budget; \$1.75 million in School Aid budget; and \$3.84 million in the Department of Human Services budget.

The bill does not substantially change the current program or make any additional appropriations for the program.

The program is administered locally through a grant process run by the Children's Trust Fund in conjunction with the three state department heads from Education, Community Health and Human Services. The programs funded must be designed to foster positive parenting skills especially for parents with children under 3 years of age; improve parent and child interaction; promote access to needed community services; increase local capacity to serve families at risk; improve school readiness; and, support healthy family environments that discourage alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

## **House Passes SCHIP Resolution Urging Override of President Bush's Veto**

The Michigan House passed a resolution calling on Congress to override President Bush's veto of the reauthorization of the SCHIP program. The resolution passed 72 to 34, all of the "no" votes were cast by Republicans. The vote in the nation's capitol to override the President's veto is scheduled for October 18, 2007. The U.S. Senate is thought to have the votes to override the President, but the U.S. House of Representatives appears to be a few votes short of an override.

## **Senate Confirms Ismael Ahmed as Director of DHS**

Ismael Ahmed was unanimously confirmed by the Michigan Senate as the new Director for the Department of Human Services. He replaces Marianne Udow who resigned to take a new position with a joint venture between the University of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Ismael Ahmed was previously the Executive Director of ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services). Ismael Ahmed was a 1975 graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education with a minor in Sociology. He resides in Dearborn with his wife Peggy, also a certified teacher, and his five children.