



Day at the Capitol 2026

Speaking Points

Budget Priorities

Essential Local Public Health Services – \$6.5M Inflation Adjustment

- Michigan invested **\$75M in essential local public health services in 2023**, but inflation has reduced the real value of that investment.
 - Maintaining the same purchasing power in 2026 would require **about \$81.5M**, meaning a **\$6.5M adjustment simply preserves existing services**, not expansion.
 - Without an inflation adjustment, **local health departments effectively face a funding cut**, forcing reductions in staffing, prevention programs, or emergency preparedness.
 - Stable, predictable funding supports **disease prevention, environmental health, maternal and child health, and emergency response statewide**.
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Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) – \$7.3M Increase

- **Enrollment has grown more than 70%** (29,680 children in 2012 to over 51,000 in 2025), while funding has not kept pace.
 - Current base funding of **\$6.7M falls far short** of the estimated **\$14M needed to sustain services** when enrollment growth and labor costs are considered.
 - Underfunding leads to high caseloads, staffing shortages, and delays for families navigating complex medical care systems.
 - Increasing funding would **stabilize staffing, improve access to care coordination, and support families of children with complex medical needs**.
 - Strong care coordination **reduces costly hospitalizations and complications**, making this a **cost-effective investment**.
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Lead Screening and Prevention – \$10M to fund program

- The **2025 universal lead screening mandate expanded testing statewide** but did not include funding for local health departments and labs.
- Follow-up work — case management, family outreach, and environmental investigations — is **labor-intensive and cannot be automated**.
- Increased testing volume leads to **lab capacity pressures, delayed turnaround times, and limited local response capacity**.
- Investment ensures **test results lead to timely intervention that protects children from permanent harm**.



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Policy Priorities

Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Access Prevention

- Tobacco remains **the leading cause of preventable death in Michigan**, and youth initiation drives lifelong addiction and health costs.
 - Retail licensing is a proven strategy to **reduce youth access by creating clear rules and accountability for retailers**.
 - Licensing allows enforcement tools such as **suspension or revocation for repeat violations**, not just fines.
 - It gives communities authority to **address retailer density near schools and enforce youth access laws effectively**.
 - A statewide system would **improve tracking and enforcement of tobacco sales**, which is currently inconsistent in Michigan.
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Updating Michigan's Food Law

- Michigan's current framework is based largely on the **2009 FDA Food Code**, while the FDA has issued updated versions in **2013, 2017, and 2022**.
- Updating state law would **align Michigan with modern food safety science and national standards**.
- The update would improve **consistency in inspections and regulations across food establishments**.
- Modernizing the law helps regulators and the food industry **adapt to evolving food preparation practices and technologies**.
- The goal is **stronger food safety protections and a regulatory framework that reflects current public health best practices**.