

## CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF APRIL 9, 2018

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### **CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE**

The House kept its promise to act quickly on the Criminal Sexual Conduct Bills after returning from spring break by introducing an 18-bill package on Thursday. Hearings in the House Law and Justice Committee on the bills should begin early next week. The Senate bills, including SB 871-880 were sent to the same committee.

Based on an investigation conducted by several House members into how Michigan State University handled the Larry Nassar scandal, the bills are designed to penalize those who abuse their authority by stopping others from reporting or investigating sexual assaults, and to supplement the Senate bills which focus on serving justice for sexual assault victims.

The inquiry has also led to new requirements for funding in the House version of the higher education budget.

The House bills would require the retention of certain medical records for 15 years and require another individual to be in the room and written consent with specific treatments on minors.

In addition, the bills would make sexual contact or penetration under the pretext of medical treatment a crime, and a doctor convicted of such would have their license permanently revoked.

The bills would also give mandatory reporters additional training materials; ensure students received education on sexual assault, dating violence and domestic violence; and create a campus sexual assault ombudsman in the Department of Civil Rights.

Other issues addressed by the bills include: keeping those alleging sexual assault in civil actions anonymous; make aggravated production, financing and distribution of child sexually abusive material a crime; create a grant program for campus sexual assault response improvement plans; maintain records stating the reasons for separation of service for school employees; expand the definition of victim; clarify the procedure for removing officials from university governing boards; and require certain actions to be taken after a pupil reports being sexual assaulted.

### **HOUSE ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY REPORTING GAPS – TIES FUNDING TO NEW REQUIREMENTS**

An investigation by House members into how MSU mishandled the Nassar sex scandal has lead the House to use the power of the purse to close the loopholes which Larry Nassar exploited as a physician at MSU, and ensuring that all of Michigan's Universities are doing the same thing to protect their students.

As reported out of the House Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee on Thursday, the higher education budget bill now mandates that universities lose 10 percent of their operations funding if they fail to submit annual Title IX reports to the Department of Attorney General, Department of Civil Rights and relevant county sheriffs. Universities could also lose the 10 percent if it fails to comply with other conditions related to handling sexual assault investigations. Additional stipulations include: Being prohibited from using in-house medical experts, compensating medical professionals convicted of a felony for medical procedures and issuing a divergent investigation report during Title IX investigations.

### **SNYDER CALLS FOR LINE 5 TUNNEL, ANCHOR MAY HAVE CAUSED DENT**

After a report that the same anchor that damaged power lines at the bottom of the Straights of Mackinac also caused dents in the Enbridge Line 5 twin pipeline, Governor Rick Snyder has said for the first time that the twin pipelines should be decommissioned and called for the studies for alternatives to Line 5 to be completed earlier than June.

Snyder's office also said that if the studies show it is physically possible to construct a tunnel beneath the straits without causing significant environmental damage, the governor would "move to require Enbridge to construct the tunnel and decommission the existing Line 5."

For years, environmentalists, along with businesses and residents have been calling for the shut-down of Line 5 over fears that the lines could rupture and create an environmental disaster in the Straights.

Enbridge has said the dents are small, and pose no threat. The state, however, is having its own experts verify the damage. Lt. Governor Brian Calley has also asked Attorney General Bill Schuette to begin legal action against the owners of the ship that caused the damage, and any other responsible parties.

Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R- Traverse City) has called for immediate shutdown of the pipeline, and has criticized both Enbridge, and American Transmission Co.'s handling of the situation.

### **SHIRKEY READY TO MOVE ON WORK REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICAID**

Sen. Mike Shirkey said this week that Senate Bill 897, which includes a work requirement for able-bodied Medicaid recipients to receive benefits, has been adjusted and should be ready to move out of committee next week.

The bill would require all able-bodied non-pregnant adults age 19 to 64, without a disability, who are enrolled in Medicaid and the Healthy Michigan expansion of Medicaid, to prove they are employed in order to receive benefits. To meet the work requirement, individuals would have to either work 30 hours a week, be in job training in an industry with proven demand, or education, or any combination of these three activities.

Changes to the bill include exemptions for pregnant women and individuals with mental health issues, and making the effective date October 2019 instead of 2018. Other exemptions would be those who are caretakers of family members or dependents, full-time students, those with medical complications and more.

The federal government released guidelines in February which allowed for the implementation of work requirements as a condition of eligibility for Medicaid—something which has never been allowed during the program's 50-year history.

## **MM&A Briefs**

### **Whitmer files nominating petitions**

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer filed her nominating petitions this week, with the maximum 30,000 signatures from all 83 counties in the state.

### **Biden endorses Slotkin**

Former Vice President Joe Biden endorsed Democratic candidate Elissa Slotkin for her race to win the nomination in the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. House District. Slotkin was previously a national security advisor to Biden.

## **Calendar of Important Events**

- April 14      U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop (R) campaign kickoff  
Location: 10 a.m., Bishop for Congress Office, Rochester Hills
- Michigan Democratic Party Legacy Dinner  
Location: 6 p.m., Cobo Center, Detroit
- April 15      Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement Convention  
Location: 9 a.m., Cobo Center, Detroit
- Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) for Attorney General Fundraiser  
Location: 1 p.m., Comerica Park, Detroit
- April 16      2nd Senate District Candidate Brian Banks (D) Fundraiser  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Sinbad's Restaurant, Detroit
- Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) Attorney General Campaign Fundraiser  
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Wine Loft, Kalamazoo
- April 17      Justice Kurtis Wilder and Justice Beth Clement Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Lansing
- Americans for Prosperity-Michigan Citizen Day  
Location: 8:30 a.m., Senate Office Building, Lansing
- 3rd Senate District candidate Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit) fundraiser  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Glazed & Confused, Lansing
- Wolverine Caucus Forum on Robotics and Innovation  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Speaker's Library, Capitol Building, Lansing
- April 18      Rep. Eric Leutheuser (R-Hillsdale) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing
- Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. Vanessa Guerra (D-Saginaw) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) Fundraiser  
Location: 12 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) Fundraiser  
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

April 19 34th Senate District Candidate Holly Hughes (R-White River Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona) Fundraiser  
Location: 10:45 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

April 21 24th Senate District Candidate Kelly Rossman-McKinney (D) Fundraiser  
Location: 4 p.m., 914 Oneida Woods Trail, Grand Ledge

Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Senate Campaign Fundraiser  
Location: 4 p.m., Farmington Hills

April 23 Attorney General Bill Schuette (R) Gubernatorial Campaign Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Grant Consulting Group, Lansing

April 24 Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Handy Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Martin Howrylak (R-Troy) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Rep. Tim Sneller (D-Burton) Fundraiser  
Location: 4:30 p.m., White Horse Tavern, Flint

Michigan Association of Health Plans Legislative Reception  
Location: 5 p.m., Radisson Hotel, Lansing

April 25 Rep. Julie Calley (R-Portland) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

65th House District Candidate Sarah Lightner (R) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Association of Counties, Lansing

April 25      13th Senate District Candidate Mallory McMorrow (D) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

25th House District candidate Nate Shannon (D) fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Vanguard Public Affairs, Lansing

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

April 26      Secretary of State Ruth Johnson (R) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

9th Senate District Candidate Paul Wojno (D) Fundraiser  
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing