

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



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LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

**DANA NESSEL**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 7, 2025

Dear Michigan Healthcare Providers and Patients,

You have no doubt heard about the federal government's executive order limiting access to healthcare and efforts to withhold funds from federal grant recipients, including healthcare facilities and healthcare providers who must provide services without discrimination. In response to multiple lawsuits challenging the federal funding freeze, the federal government rescinded the directive but publicly acknowledged that the rescission was meaningless and that the spirit and intent of the directive would be implemented. Not surprisingly, and perhaps intentionally, chaos and uncertainty ensued, leaving Michigan residents concerned about access to healthcare services and Michigan healthcare facilities and providers questioning their legal obligations and exposure.

I write to remind you that the availability of federal funding has no bearing on Michiganders' right to seek and receive healthcare services without discrimination. Moreover, access to federal funds does not relieve Michigan healthcare facilities and providers of the obligation to comply with Michigan laws, including those that prohibit discrimination against individuals based on their membership in a protected class, such as religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or marital status. See, e.g., MCL §§ 37.2102, 2202, 2302. Refusing healthcare services to a class of individuals based on their protected status, such as withholding the availability of services from transgender individuals based on their gender identity or their diagnosis of gender dysphoria, while offering such services to cisgender individuals, may constitute discrimination under Michigan law. I strongly encourage individuals seeking healthcare services, as well as healthcare facilities and providers, to consult with legal counsel to understand their rights and obligations under Michigan law and the impacts of federal litigation challenging the federal government's efforts to block funding and limit healthcare access.

As Attorney General, I acted swiftly to protect Michigan residents from the federal government's illegal attempts to halt federal funding. On January 28, the State of Michigan, together with 21 other states and the District of Columbia, filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block the federal government's illegal efforts to freeze federal funding. On Friday, January 31, the judge in the case issued a Temporary Restraining Order that prohibits federal

agencies from pausing, freezing, impeding, blocking, canceling, or terminating compliance with financial awards and obligations to states, except on the basis of applicable laws, regulations, and grant terms. This court order provides temporary relief to the states, and I will continue fighting to keep federal funding relied upon by healthcare facilities and providers, as well as Michiganders seeking healthcare services, flowing.

My office remains committed to protecting Michiganders' access to healthcare services free of discrimination and to ensuring Michigan healthcare facilities and providers maintain full access to funds promised by the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Nessel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dana Nessel**  
Michigan Attorney General