

JOCELYN BENSON

for GOVERNOR



Support our healthcare workforce



Fight unfair medical billing

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Affordability Agenda | Healthcare

When more Michiganders have affordable access to care, we all benefit. Our emergency rooms aren't overwhelmed with preventable crises. Our local hospitals stay open. Our businesses can attract and keep talented workers. And our communities thrive. But right now, too many families are being forced to make impossible choices: between filling a prescription or paying the electric bill, between traveling hours for basic care or going without it. And even those with insurance get trapped in red tape when companies wrongly deny the care their doctor says they need. That's why we need to reform the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services so Michiganders can have advocates who can help them challenge the CEOs who put profits over people and families can keep and maintain their access to care and coverage.

As Governor I will:

- ✓ **Fight unfair medical bills** by requiring hospitals to show patients their costs upfront. We'll create an online portal where residents can report hospitals that don't follow the rules, and work with the Attorney General to hold violators accountable.
- ✓ **Crack down on insurance companies who deny care prescribed by doctors** by reforming the state's health agency into a resource for residents that ensures patients can file complaints when insurers reject doctor-recommended treatments. This will empower the state to investigate and penalize insurers with patterns of inappropriate denials.
- ✓ **Bring care directly to communities** by investing in more mobile health centers to bring low or no-cost preventive services directly to rural and underserved areas hit hardest by hospital closures and federal funding cuts.
- ✓ **Create an independent Prescription Drug Affordability Board** with the authority to review manufacturing practices, approve price increases, and hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for the price gouging that prevents Michiganders from affording their medications.
- ✓ **Address the Black maternal health crisis** by investing in culturally competent care, Medicaid-covered doula and midwife services, mandatory bias training for maternal healthcare providers, and better access to life-saving prenatal and postpartum care – so every Michigan mother has the support she needs, regardless of race or income.
- ✓ **Pass a \$5,000 caregiver tax credit** championed first by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to alleviate the financial burden of caring for a loved one. As Michigan's population ages, this will ensure the people who have called Michigan home for their entire lives have the support they need from family members – and that their families have the resources they need to provide that support.
- ✓ **Support healthcare workforce development** by expanding CTE programs and scholarships for students pursuing medical careers, and creating tax and loan forgiveness incentives that make it affordable for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers to build their lives in Michigan's high-need communities. Supporting local care means empowering local talent.