

From Alan Bolter, Associate Director of the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards:

The Michigan Senate just adjourned at 4:45pm on Thursday, June 20, 2013 without taking a vote on Medicaid expansion. Governor Snyder cut his 9 day trade trip to Israel short to fly back to Lansing to work on this but after several hours of meetings he was not able to convince a majority of Senate Republicans to bring HB 4714 up for a vote. At this point the Senate does not intend to hold any session days where votes will be cast in the months of July or August.

In a closing statement on the Senate Floor, Senate Majority Leader Richardville said the debate on the issue was not done. "Members of my caucus have been working hard to improve upon something that was hoisted upon us by a federal government that had very little consideration for the impact of this program on the taxpayers of Michigan," he said in a statement. "We owe it to our neighbors and communities to thoroughly review this issue and consider alternatives to the current proposal. The legislation will be referred to committee and a legislative workgroup will spend the summer reviewing the current legislation and proposals offered by my colleagues that seek to improve upon the tremendous work that has already been done. I look forward to working with the Governor, the House and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to present a plan for a healthier Michigan."

HB 4714 was referred to the Senate Government Operations committee. The likelihood of HB 4714 being brought up for a vote at a later date in the Senate is in serious jeopardy.