




# The Fight to Adopt Tech First in Michigan

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And What You Can Do

A woman with a disability is sitting on a yoga mat in a meditative pose. She is wearing a maroon long-sleeved shirt and grey leggings. Her hands are clasped in front of her chest, and her eyes are closed. The background is a bright, slightly blurred indoor setting with a white wall and some greenery.

Michigan's Medicaid program does not pay for any technology talked about today...yet.

**Technology First** means technology must be considered *first* as a solution to a goal in an individual's IPOS.

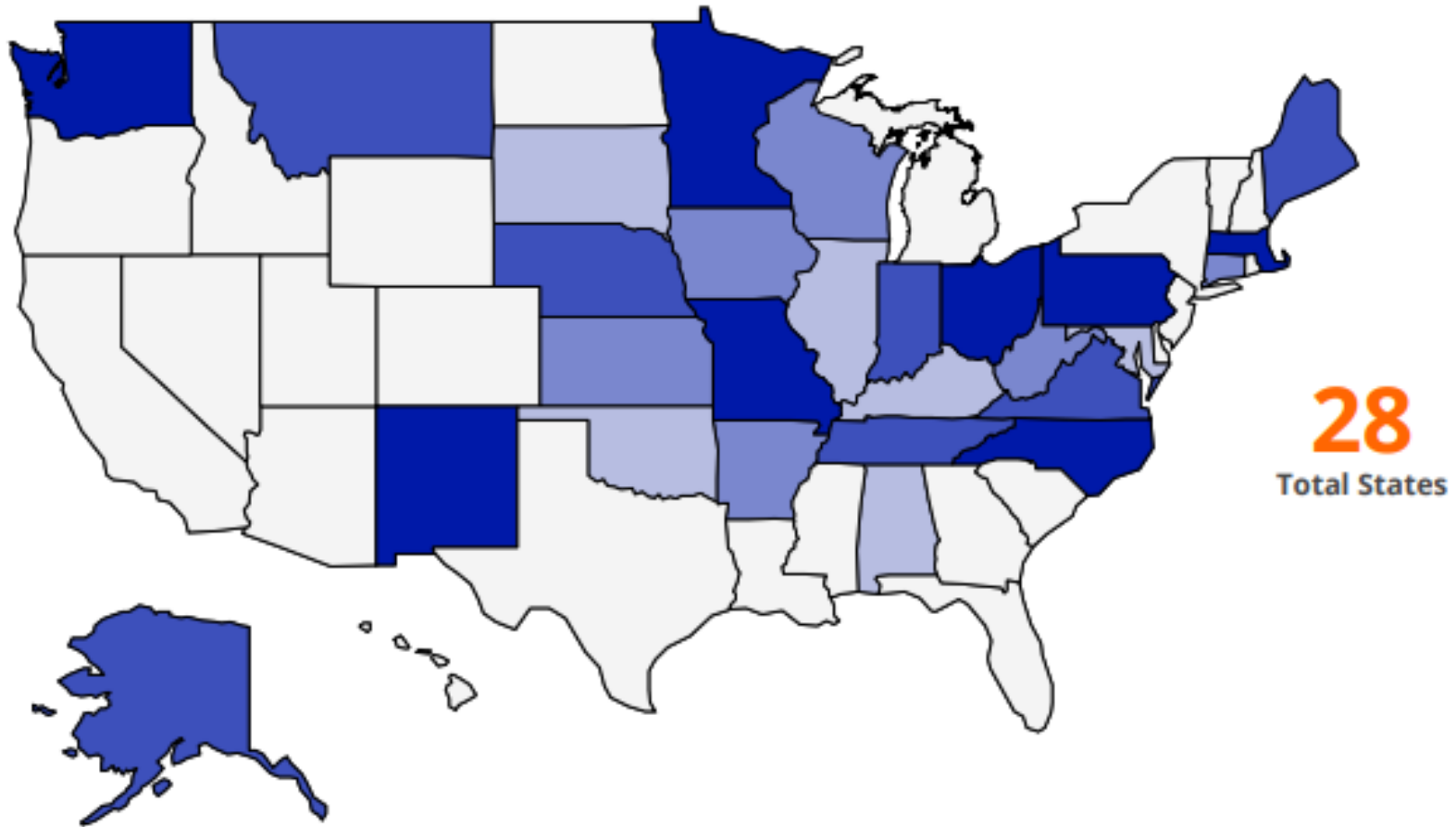
Medicaid in Michigan currently pays for “assistive technology” but it must be proven to be “medically necessary.”

We need the department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to adopt a new Medicaid waiver or change the old.

Bi-partisan and bi-cameral Care Caucus is considering some first steps – setting up a “work group” or task force.

Talk to your state legislators. Help them understand why this is important. Tell them your story.

## Technology First States or States Reimbursing for Technology - 2022



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Michigan is woefully behind

# Key Messages to Convey to Leaders

About the benefits of enabling and remote technology for people with disabilities.

- Direct Care Crisis
- Increases independence and satisfaction
- Saves Money
- Michigan is Behind
- Smart Homes solve problems



The **direct care personnel shortage** has reached crisis proportions – everywhere. No city, county or state is immune. It's become far worse since the pandemic.



Studies have proven that when individuals with disabilities use technology **their independence and satisfaction** with life are greatly enhanced.



Using technology to support individuals with IDD to live more independently will save Medicaid dollars – many of which are being wasted today.



Many states have adopted “**Tech First**” commitments and/or adopted **Medicaid waivers** that pay for enabling technology. **Michigan is way behind.**



Enabling technology has improved substantially with the invention of **Smart Home technologies, Alexa, Google Home** and other, similar technologies.

# Some Leaders who are Listening

**State Rep. Helena Scott**

7<sup>th</sup> House District

Parts of Royal Oak, Ferndale & Detroit



**State Rep. Stephanie A. Young**

16<sup>th</sup> House District

Parts of Detroit.



**State Rep. Sharon MacDonnell**

56<sup>th</sup> House District

Parts of Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Troy, Royal Oak and all of Clawson



**State Rep. Regina Weiss**

6<sup>th</sup> House District

Berkely, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, parts of Detroit



# Other Leaders to Reach

**State Rep. Christine Morse**

40<sup>th</sup> House District

Parts of Kalamazoo County



**State Senator Sylvia Santana**

2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

All of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, parts of Allen Park and Detroit



Your State Rep



Your State Senator