

Mich. lawmakers give final OK to expand Medicaid

September 3 2013, by David Eggert



In this July 1, 2013 file photo, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, center, joins Beaumont Health System President and CEO Gene Michalski, left, and Dr. Jeffrey Ditkoff at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., to discuss the Healthy Michigan plan. As the GOP in Washington repeatedly calls for an Obamacare repeal, Republican governors in traditionally swing-voting states are grudgingly bowing to reality _ that the president's health care overhaul is the law of the land and, almost certainly, here to stay. Their reluctant acceptance is based on what they call financial prudence and what appears to be political necessity. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File)

Michigan lawmakers have given final approval to legislation to make more low-income adults eligible for health insurance through the federal health care law.

The Medicaid expansion bill approved 75-32 Tuesday by the Republican-led House now heads to Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, who plans to sign it.

The newly eligible recipients would be covered starting in March instead of January because Senate Republicans refused to put the measure into effect immediately.

Medicaid expansion is part of a strategy to ensure nearly all Americans have health insurance under the 2010 Affordable Care Act. It was designed to cover the neediest uninsured people but became optional for states because of a Supreme Court decision.

Michigan's plan includes GOP provisions requiring federal approval. Snyder says he has received "positive feedback" from the Obama administration.

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Citation: Mich. lawmakers give final OK to expand Medicaid (2013, September 3) retrieved 16 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-09-mich-lawmakers-medicaid.html>

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