



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## ADVOCATING FOR OLDER MICHIGANDERS

Governor Whitmer is focused on tackling the problems older Michiganders face in their day to day lives. She's set a goal to become the first "age-friendly state" in the Midwest by proposing bold initiatives to lower costs for seniors including a roll back of the retirement tax, expanding nursing home support payments, signing bipartisan legislation to end surprise billing, establishing a task force to tackle the cost of prescription drugs, and more.

*"We must do more to help older Michiganders access affordable healthcare, retire with dignity, and have attainable, affordable housing. I am committed to driving down the cost of prescription drugs, easing the tax burden on seniors, and expanding access nursing homes and alternatives."*

*- Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

### **Making Michigan an age-friendly state**

- [Proposed an elimination of the retirement tax](#) to save half a million households an average of \$1,000 a year.
- Became the first "[Age-Friendly State](#)" in the Midwest to ensure Michigan prepares for dramatic and imminent demographic changes and that communities can take steps to accommodate all ages.
- Launched the [Thriving Seniors Tour](#) to highlight what needs to be done to make Michigan a great place to live, work, and retire through open and honest conversations.
- Signed an [executive order](#) creating the Health and Aging Services Administration (HASA), which will strengthen the continuum of support and services to older Michiganders. This agency also runs the "Community for a Lifetime" program, which helps communities adapt to the needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers.
- Invested \$20 million to expand [Michigan's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\) program](#) which provides comprehensive care for elderly individuals who require long term care.
- Consistently [invested in programs supporting older Michiganders](#) including increasing nursing home support payments; expanding services to age in place, senior home care, and access to senior centers; improving preventative services, transportation options, health screenings and services, and meal delivery; reducing hospital readmission; combatting elder abuse, and [more](#).

## Expanding access to healthcare and lowering the cost of prescription drugs

- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) to [nearly 900,000 people](#).
- Expanded [dental care](#) for Michiganders covered by Medicaid or Healthy Michigan plans.
- Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and signed bipartisan legislation requiring all insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
- Signed bipartisan legislation to protect Michiganders against [surprise medical billing](#).
- Established [Prescription Drugs Task Force](#) and received their recommendations to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes.
- Signed a bill to [lower the cost of prescription drugs](#) and increase pharmacy oversight based on recommendations from the Prescription Drug Task Force.
- Established the [Nursing Home Workforce Stabilization Council](#) to identify review, develop, and recommend approaches to support high-quality nursing home care.
- Created and [consistently](#) supported funding for a [dementia care unit](#) with DHHS to reduce the burden of dementia in the state and to create a dementia-capable Michigan.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, made seniors a priority by protecting residents and staff in long-term care facilities.