



For Immediate Release
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MI Democrats Choose Politics Over Real Auto Insurance Reform: Again

*House Democrat package of bills does nothing
to lower costs to Michigan consumers*

Lansing, Mich. – Less than 48 hours after House Democrats introduced bills that do nothing to lower costs to Michigan consumers, leadership used the same old techniques to jam them through the committee this morning. The bills, designed to implement the recommendations of the Governor’s so-called consumer advocate, would actually add costs to the system and damage the competitive insurance market consumers currently enjoy.

Completely ignoring testimony from multiple experts that their approach would not reduce costs or help consumers, Democrats on the House Insurance Committee moved quickly to report the bills to the house floor. During the 4-1/2 hours of discussion by the house committee, leadership did not even allow time to discuss amendments offered by Republican members.

“This lack of a deliberative process on such a complex issue makes me sick; Democratic members of the committee have shown that they only care for politics over policy,” said Tom Shields, spokesperson for the Michigan Insurance Coalition (MIC). “The insurance industry has repeatedly offered to work cooperatively but we have been ignored. Michigan cannot afford the same old political solutions to our economic issues. If legislators continue to ignore that runaway health care costs are driving auto insurance premiums, Michigan will be on its way to becoming the state with the most expensive auto insurance in the nation.”

Michigan has more than 55,000 employees working directly for the industry and supports more than 100,000 jobs indirectly. “If these bills pass, it will undermine the one Michigan industry that is adding jobs,” added Shields.

“How long will it take insurance company CEOs to realize that rather than offering insurance in Michigan, they could just purchase T-bills and get a better rate of return without the risk? It is time for serious people to have a serious discussion on real solutions to help lower costs for Michigan consumers,” said Shields. “We’re hopeful that this discussion can occur when this package of bills reaches the Senate where the focus is more on public policy and finding real solutions.”

The Michigan Insurance Coalition is a Lansing-based state property-casualty trade association. MIC's members are insurers who annual service more than \$3 billion of Michigan insurance policies. Most of MIC's members have their national headquarters located right here in Michigan – proudly employing thousands of Michigan residents directly and contracting with thousands of individual agents to help serve their customers.