



# POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

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April 28, 2015

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Health Care

Dear Senator Stabenow:

The Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) wants to make you aware of the sad situation facing police officers in your state. As a result of economic difficulties in different communities throughout the state, thousands of retired police officers have had their health care coverage eliminated. This coverage was a legal promise to officers when they were hired. These officers fulfilled their duties, honored their commitment, but have now had these promises pulled out from under them. Eliminated at the moment in their lives when it is the most difficult to be without health care. These retirees no longer have the advantage of youth and vitality to go out and seek new employment to pay for the benefit that should have been provided.

As a result of the Affordable Healthcare Act (AHA), many employers are now eliminating health care coverage for retirees and forcing these retirees into the health care exchange. POAM is sure this was not the intent of the AHA when passed, but unfortunately this appears to be the result. More and more employers are considering using this tactic against our retired members, thus placing the retirees in a dangerous position of having little or no health coverage.

The AHA needs to be amended and repaired in several areas. The use of the AHA as a political tool needs to stop. Public and private employers who have a contractual commitment to retired employees must be prohibited from using the AHA to reduce or vacate the health care

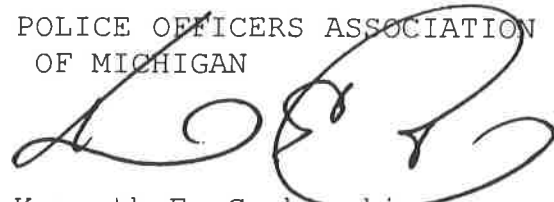
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provisions that were negotiated and agreed to through the collective bargaining process. Real people are being harmed by our elected officials' inability to work together for what is best for the country. An employer, whether public or private sector, should not have the ability to walk away from its promised commitments and contracts. The Police Officers Association of Michigan is requesting that you amend the AHA to prohibit employers, both public and private, from eliminating the contractually agreed to healthcare coverage for retired employees and thereby forcing these retirees to turn to the exchanges. These amendments will then require the employers to uphold and maintain the health care provisions as written.

POAM requests a written response on this issue.

Sincerely,

POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
OF MICHIGAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Grabowski', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kenneth E. Grabowski  
Legislative Director

KEG/jlh

cc: POAM Executive Board  
Dennis McGrann, Lockridge Grindal Nauen  
Timothy Ward, Michigan Legislative Consultants