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*The Partnership for Michigan's Health*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Jan.13, 2012

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **State Revenue Surpasses Expectations**

### **Governor and Legislature Urged to Support Graduate Medical Education & Medicaid**

#### **Media Statements**

*These statements are in response to today's revenue estimating conference, which identified a projected state surplus of hundreds of millions of dollars.*

*In the state's fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget cut that took place last year, graduate medical education (GME) funding was reduced and the health care community again absorbed Medicaid reductions totaling \$51 million in general fund from the previous administrations. **In light of today's news of \$278 million in unexpected FY 2012 general fund revenue, elected officials should *restore* the projected \$6 million general fund (\$15 million gross after federal match) cut to GME funding in FY 2012 and avoid proposing an \$11 million (\$32 million gross after federal match) cut in FY 2013.***

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"Last year, Gov. Snyder and the state Legislature invested in the future of Michigan citizens by making health care funding a priority. We again urge the state's leadership to preserve Medicaid funding that protects health care access for women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Today, we ask the governor to reaffirm his commitment to Michigan's vulnerable populations — as well as to young professionals seeking medical training and careers in our state — by supporting the appropriate funding of graduate medical education. Investing in GME is critical to a physically and fiscally healthy Michigan. **Clearly, the resources exist to appropriately fund graduate medical education, which supports access to care and the health care workforce of tomorrow.**"

- MHA President Spencer Johnson

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"Now is the time to maintain health care access where it is needed most and protect jobs in a state that is experiencing a worsening physician workforce shortage. GME funding helps teaching hospitals offset the costs of operating medical residency programs for physicians who have completed medical school training and provide patient care to vulnerable populations in hospitals and clinics. This is not tuition funding. Medicaid is the safety net for the disadvantaged and GME funding is the fabric that helps hold it together. **Elected officials now have the means to fund the program and are urged to do so.**"

- MSMS Executive Director Julie Novak

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"**GME programs provide critical access to health care for vulnerable populations and are essential for preserving health care jobs.** Teaching hospitals that host medical residents treat high numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients in urban and rural areas. This includes uncompensated and charity care, as well as primary care to the state's uninsured and underinsured populations. Investment in GME also draws down federal matching funds; for every \$1 we invest, Michigan receives an additional \$2 in federal funding."

- MOA Executive Director Kris Nicholoff

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#### **About the Partnership for Michigan's Health**

Formed in 2002, the Partnership for Michigan's Health includes the Michigan Health & Hospital Association ([www.mha.org](http://www.mha.org)), the Michigan State Medical Society ([www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org)) and the Michigan Osteopathic Association ([www.mi-osteopathic.org](http://www.mi-osteopathic.org)). The group works closely with stakeholders and elected officials to advocate for affordable and accessible medical services for all Michigan residents. Medicaid now accounts for the health care of nearly one in five Michiganders. In addition, there are 1.3 million uninsured residents in the state who cannot pay for their treatment, relying on emergency room visits and hospital and physician charity care programs. Health care remains Michigan's leading private-sector employer, providing more than 546,000 direct jobs and contributing \$6.6 billion annually in federal, state and local taxes to the economy.