



ADVOCACY DAY

LEARN HOW
TO CHANGE
YOUR WORLD

**WE NEED
CHANGE!**
Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

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michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025



A CRISIS IN CARE

**The result of changes to
2019 Auto No-Fault Insurance**

CRISIS IN CARE

- Reform passed in 2019 which cut reimbursements for care to agencies and families by almost 50%.
- We Can't Wait (WCW) formed April 2021 as a grassroots organization to advocate for survivors and families and friends to learn and take action.
- Lead Team - Lois Cordle and Maureen Howell joined and soon had thousands of members – 9,000 today.



Mission

- Fix legislative reform that cut reimbursements for care to agencies and families by almost 50% and limited family care to 56 hours a week. Family is defined as anyone who knew the survivor before the crash.
- Educate and move our legislative bills. To date 26 bills were presented and died. A Senate bi-partisan bill did pass in October 2023 which provided fee schedules and increased personal caregiver hourly care limitations, but it died in the House.
- Provide the best care for recovery and continued gains after a catastrophic injury.



Consequences Of Auto No-Fault Reform

As of April 2022, Michigan Public Health Institute found:

- 24 agencies closed.
- 4000 jobs were lost. Now agencies will not accept ANF clients.
- More than 7000 discharges occurred.



Consequences Of Auto No-Fault Reform

- Families had to step in and care for loved ones—agencies do not accept auto no-fault clients. The alternative is a care facility.
- Families financially strapped, lost possessions, declared bankruptcy and went on Medicaid.
- Transport companies refused ANF clients – survivors could not get to physician and therapy appointments. Many lost progress they had gained in recovery.



Consequences Of Auto No-Fault Reform

- Insurances companies ramped up deny, delay and defend payments.
- Difficulty in obtaining legal resources.
- Drivers have 6 levels of care to choose from but even choosing “unlimited,” you are limited to 50% of reimbursements and other things.
- At least 15 people that we know of have died.



Andary vs. USAA

Decision 7/31/2023

- The Andary lawsuit returned the system to “reasonable and customary” for those injured prior to June 11, 2019.
 - Still insurance companies continue to deny, delay or refuse to pay unless a case is litigated.
 - Did not restore care to survivors injured after June 11th, 2019, even if they were covered under an “unlimited” policy.

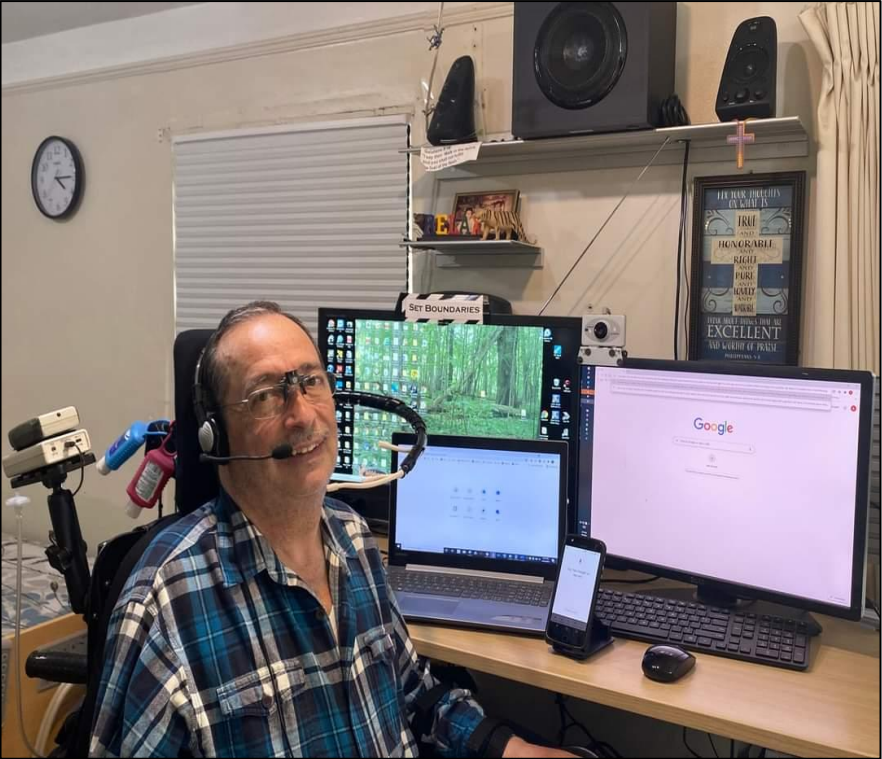


Annabelle, quadriplegic, age 5, injured February 2020. \$1.5M debt. Ohio is the nearest children’s residential facility for ventilated children.



Before and After Reform

The story of Brian Woodward



Recommended actions for families, friends & staff and why it is important

- Educate yourself...then educate legislators
- Join We Can't Wait Facebook page
 - Read guidelines for posting
- Join We Can't Wait **MI** Facebook page
- Refer to We Can't Wait website
- Issue resolution
 - Contact senators
 - Contact representatives



Advocacy Day

- March 12, 2025
- Gather at 7:30 am
- Central United Methodist Church
- 215 North Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933
- Register today!
- [Event page and registration](#)



All are welcome

- United Methodists and friends
 - PCUSA
 - Episcopalian Church
 - Lutheran Church
 - Friends & neighbors
 - And others...



Power in our...

- Connection
- Inspiration
- Call



Registration

- Sunday, February 23, 2025
- For lunch and appointment reservations, register in advance
- Walk-ins are welcome.
- Registration \$30
 - Sliding scale
- Additional donations are welcome to make Advocacy Day a sustainable event.



Pre-event trainings

- **Advocacy Training #1: Monday, February 24, 7:00 pm**
 - "How to Do Advocacy Work"
 - Representative Julie Rogers, District 42/Chapel Hill UMC - Portage
 - Ellen Hoekstra, former co-owner of Capitol Services Inc, a Lansing based lobbying firm. Presbyterian Church Okemos
- **Advocacy Training #2: Monday, March 3, 7:00 pm**
 - "Plan for Your Meetings"
 - Bishop David Bard, Michigan Conference UMC
 - Tori Booker, Planning Assistant/First UMC Ann Arbor



Public witness on the Capitol lawn

- Paper plate cars that include these elements:
 - Band-Aids
 - Hearts
 - Names of those you transport everyday
 - Names of loved ones injured or killed in an auto accident (First names only, please)
- May be sent in advance:
Central UMC
215 North Capital Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933



Schedule

All times Eastern Standard Time

- 7:30 AM Registration and refreshments
- 8:30 AM Welcome
- 9:00 AM Advocacy activities
- 11:30 AM Press conference
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Worship (official events conclude after worship)
- 2:00 PM Optional conversations about other justice issues
- 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM Optional Capitol tours
 - Sign-up is included in the registration form



Advocacy Activities

- Meetings with legislators and staff (prioritize scheduling of meetings.)
- Poster making for press conference.
- Letter writing.
- Prayer vigil in the Capitol rotunda.
- Prayer vigil in the church sanctuary.
- Introductions in the Senate chambers 10 am and House TBD.
- Press conference on Capitol steps 11:30 am live.
- Public witness on the Capitol lawn.



Hotel Block

- Courtyard by Marriott
(walking distance to event)
600 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912
- SpringHill Suites East Lansing
(driving required)
1100 Trowbridge Rd
East Lansing, MI 48823



Debrief

- Tuesday, March 17, 7pm
- Same zoom link



Next Action Steps

- Invite people to REGISTER for Advocacy Day.
- Registration deadline for appointments and lunch is February 23.
- Contact your legislators now and let them know you are coming and why.
- If they want to schedule with you now, share by email to **advocacy-day@michiganumc.org**.
- Attend coffee hours that senators and representatives have and share your support of auto insurance reform. Ask them about their support for the parity bill.



Questions

- **Website**
<https://michiganumc.org/2024-advocacy-day/>
- **Quick links**
<https://linktr.ee/advocacydaymiumc>
- **Email**
Advocacy-day@michiganumc.org





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WE can make a difference

michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025

Pastor Faith Green Timmons

United Methodist Church

