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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State to Temporarily Continue Providing Plan First! Medicaid to Thousands of Low-Income Women

DETROIT – Due to a temporary agreement reached in the federal case *Dozier v. Haveman*, thousands of low-income Michigan women will continue to receive Plan First! coverage. Attorneys for the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) and attorneys for the Center for Civil Justice, which represents women challenging the cutoff of their Plan First! Medicaid benefits, reached the agreement after the Center filed suit on June 23, 2014.

According to this agreement, the State will continue to provide coverage for Plan First! family planning services to thousands of low-income women who had been slated to lose benefits on Tuesday, July 1. Without the temporary extension of Plan First!, many of these women would have been left without healthcare coverage.

“It is a win-win for women and the State,” said Katie Linehan, staff attorney for the Center for Civil Justice. “Not only will it save the State money in the long run, but thousands of low-income women will continue to have access to the reproductive health and family planning services covered by the Plan First! program.”

The temporary extension of Plan First! Medicaid coverage applies to women who were, as of April 1 of this year, enrolled in Plan First! or may have been enrolled in Plan First! after April 1. The extension of benefits will continue until the federal court rules on the preliminary motions in the lawsuit. A hearing on these preliminary motions is set to be scheduled for late July.

Dozier v. Haveman challenges DCH’s and DHS’s failure to determine if low-income women are eligible for other Medicaid benefits before cutting off their Plan First! coverage of family planning services. The lawsuit also challenges the notices sent to these women for failing to contain necessary information required under federal law. The lawsuit requests class action status to provide relief for all affected women.

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