

Clerk Village of Pinckney

From: Senator Lana Theis <newsletter@gop.senate.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Clerk Village of Pinckney
Subject: Senator Lana Theis District Update

Open Senator Lana Theis' Update in your web browser

The banner features a teal background with a photograph of Senator Lana Theis on the left. To the right of the photo, the text reads "E-NEWSLETTER" in large white letters on a dark teal bar, followed by "STATE SENATOR LANA THEIS 22ND DISTRICT" in white. Below this, contact information is listed: "OFFICE: (517) 373-2420", "E-MAIL: SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov", and "VISIT: www.SenatorLanaTheis.com". On the right side of the banner, there is a background image of a domed capitol building interior. Social media handles "@SenatorTheis" and "@SenLTheis" are displayed next to Facebook and Twitter icons respectively.

E-NEWSLETTER
STATE SENATOR
LANA THEIS
22ND DISTRICT
OFFICE: (517) 373-2420
E-MAIL: SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov
VISIT: www.SenatorLanaTheis.com
@SenatorTheis
@SenLTheis

Friends and Neighbors,

It's been a busy and productive fall, thus far. This edition of my newsletter contains a few highlights to help keep you in the loop. For more detailed, day-to-day updates, follow me on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

As always, if you have any questions about the contents of this newsletter, or any other legislative matters, you can contact my office at SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov or by calling 517-373-2420.

I hope to see you throughout the district this fall or at one of my fall Coffee & Conversations events.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lana".

Senator Lana Theis
22nd District of Michigan

Senate committee begins hearing testimony on Theis package to prohibit surprise medical billing

In late October, the Senate Insurance and Banking Committee began to hear testimony on [Senate Bills 570-573](#), a package of bills that I sponsored with Senator Hertel to address the rising issue of surprise billing.

Surprise medical bills are the unexpected – and often expensive – charges patients receive after getting care from a doctor or hospital, not in their insurance network and can come without the patient’s knowledge. Maybe it’s happened to you or someone you love. You go into the hospital. You have a planned procedure done. Then a month later comes a nasty surprise – a medical bill for thousands or tens of thousands of dollars from the anesthesiologist not covered by insurance.

The bills being considered by the Michigan Senate would require medical providers to give patients a 14-day notice for services that would result in any out-of-pocket costs, along with a written estimate of those costs. For emergencies where consent cannot be given, a patient would still be protected from surprise fees under the plan.

The committee is expected to vote on the bills in early December.

Summer reading contest winner joins Senator Theis in Lansing

On Tuesday, November 5th, Joshua Gregory, of Manchester, and his mother, Michelle, joined me in Lansing as he served as a “Senator for a Day” for winning my summer reading contest. Joshua is a sixth-grade student at Beach Middle School in Chelsea, and he won the contest by reading five books, which included *The Keepers* by Ted Sanders and *Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs, among others.



Joshua Gregory and Senator Lana Theis on the floor of the Michigan Senate.

Joshua was able to join me in Lansing for most of the day and was able to attend Senate session and a committee hearing with me. The 'Be a Senator for a Day' summer reading contest is a great way to help keep students engaged in learning during their summer break. It was great to have Joshua serve with me as my junior senator, and I encourage him to keep up the good work at school.

Theis backs autism awareness legislation

I recently supported bipartisan legislation to help bridge the communications gap between law enforcement and people on the autism spectrum. The legislation will help officers improve their interactions with drivers with autism during a traffic stop or similar interaction.

[Senate Bill 278](#) would allow a vehicle owner to choose to put a "Communication Impediment" designation on their vehicle registration, driver's license, or both through the Law Enforcement Information Network (LIEN) system if they or a family member is on the autism spectrum, is deaf or has hearing loss. This voluntary designation would let law enforcement know that the owner or a family member who may be in the car has autism or a hearing issue. Police officers often access the LIEN system during traffic stops, and it is not available for members of the public. [Senate Bill 279](#) would apply to a driver's license, enhanced driver's license or state ID card.

The bills have been sent to the House for consideration.

Theis hosts business roundtable with Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to partner with the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce to host a business roundtable. Among the issues discussed were the burdens with the state's payroll tax system, worker shortages, and selected grants available for small businesses.

Thank you to all of the business owners who took time out of their day to share their thoughts and concerns with me. If you are interested in attending a future roundtable event, please contact my office at SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov or (517) 373-2420 for additional details.



Senator Theis and guests at the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce Roundtable on Friday, November 1, 2019.

Senate approves Theis address confidentiality program for assault victims

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking would be better protected from their attackers under a plan to create address confidentiality approved by the state Senate in late October.

Under the plan, victims would be able to obtain a confidential address for official documents and mail correspondence to help protect them from their past offenders. Senate Bill 75, which I sponsored, would require the secretary of state to reissue a program participant's official state ID card with his or her new "designated address."

While no law can undo a crime or take away someone's pain, I am hopeful that the address confidentiality program will help restore peace of mind for assault survivors, so they can hopefully live a more normal life. Other bills within the plan would:

- All participants to use their program ID in the state's Qualified Voter File;
- Protect a participant's real address from FOIA requests;
- Allow participants to claim an exemption from jury duty while in the program; and
- Require the secretary of state to reissue an operator's or chauffer's license or an enhanced driver's license with one containing a designated address.

The program would also afford children the same address confidentiality if they are at risk of being threatened or physically harmed, or if they or their parents or guardians are victims of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape or sexual battery. A school would not be allowed to disclose the address of a pupil or a pupil's parents or guardians if they are program participants. Michigan would become the 38th state with such laws if the plan is enacted.

Senate Bills 70-76 now advance to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Theis tours Washtenaw Community College



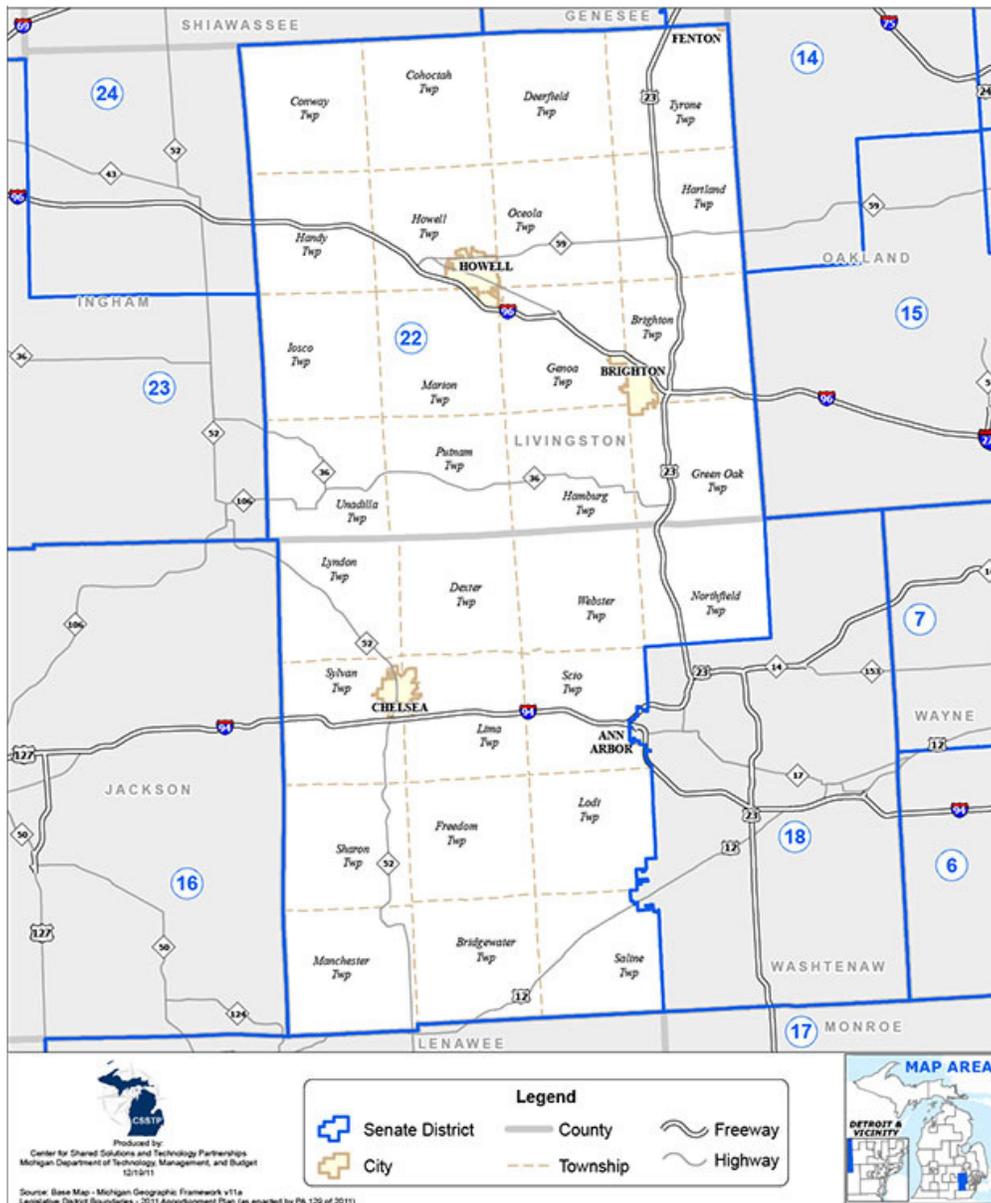
Senator Lana Theis along with Dr. Rose D. Bellanca on a tour of Washtenaw Community College

On Monday, October 28, 2019, I had the honor of joining Washtenaw Community College President Dr. Rose D. Bellanca and Associate Vice President of Workforce and Community Development Brandon Tucker for a tour of the school.

During the tour, I was able to see their Advanced Technologies, Nursing Simulation, and Surgical Technology labs. Roughly 35 percent of Washtenaw Community College students come from the 22nd Senate District, which includes Livingston and western Washtenaw counties.

Michigan's 22nd Senate District

The 22nd State Senate District includes all of Livingston County and western Washtenaw County, including Ann Arbor (part), Bridgewater Twp., Chelsea, Dexter Twp., Freedom Twp., Lima Twp., Lodi Twp. (part), Lyndon Twp., Manchester Twp., Northfield Twp., Saline Twp. (part), Scio Twp. (part), Sharon Twp., Sylvan Twp., and Webster Twp.



Thank you for subscribing to my electronic newsletter! As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please feel free to forward this on to others who may be interested in receiving the 22nd District E-news. You may [sign up](#) for it also at my [website](#).

Senator Lana Theis
 Connie B. Binsfeld Office Building, Suite #7400
 P.O. Box 30036
 Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Visit my website at: SenatorLanaTheis.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

This message was sent to **clerk@villageofpinckney.org**. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list. |
Click here to [opt out](#).