

# Family

UPDATE 2019

*Dear Neighbor:*

The love and support of family and the values of home and community are guiding lights in a challenging world.

I am proud to support a culture of life and family and would like to share some pro-family issues with you in this legislative report.

It is an honor to represent you in Lansing. I will continue to work hard on your behalf. Please call on me if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance with any state matter.

I wish you and your family health and happiness!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

**LANA  
THEIS**

**PHONE**

(517) 373-2420

**E-MAIL**

[SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov)

**VISIT**

[www.SenatorLanaTheis.com](http://www.SenatorLanaTheis.com)



# Family

UPDATE 2019

## THEIS BACKS BILLS TO BAN GRUESOME ABORTION PROCEDURE

In today's world, it's more important than ever to protect and defend innocent life.

I recently supported legislation to ban a horrible abortion practice. Senate Bills 229 and 230 would expand Michigan's partial-birth abortion ban to stop doctors from the dismemberment abortion procedure, in which a medical

instrument is used to remove a living and developed fetus in pieces.

The bills include an exemption to protect the life of the mother and would punish the person performing the dismemberment abortion, not a woman seeking or obtaining it.

This important legislation has been sent to the House for consideration.



## PROTECT KIDS FROM UNWANTED ADS



Many parents want to shield their children from inappropriate advertising on their electronic devices.

Parents can register their family's e-mail addresses, instant messenger IDs and mobile phone numbers at the Michigan Children's Protection Registry. The free do-not-contact service helps protect kids from receiving messages for an adult service or product, such as alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling.

Find more information and access the registry at [www.protectmichild.com](http://www.protectmichild.com).

## EVERY BABY DESERVES A **SAFE & LOVING HOME**

When a parent is unable or unwilling to take care of their baby, Michigan's Safe Delivery of Newborns Law provides a lifesaving alternative to neglect or abandonment. The law allows parents to safely surrender their newborn child — within three days of birth — inside a hospital, fire department or police station or by calling 911. An adoptive family will soon be waiting to welcome the baby into their loving home!

As of this spring, 239 newborns have been surrendered in Michigan through the safe delivery program. More information is available at [www.michigan.gov/safedelivery](http://www.michigan.gov/safedelivery).



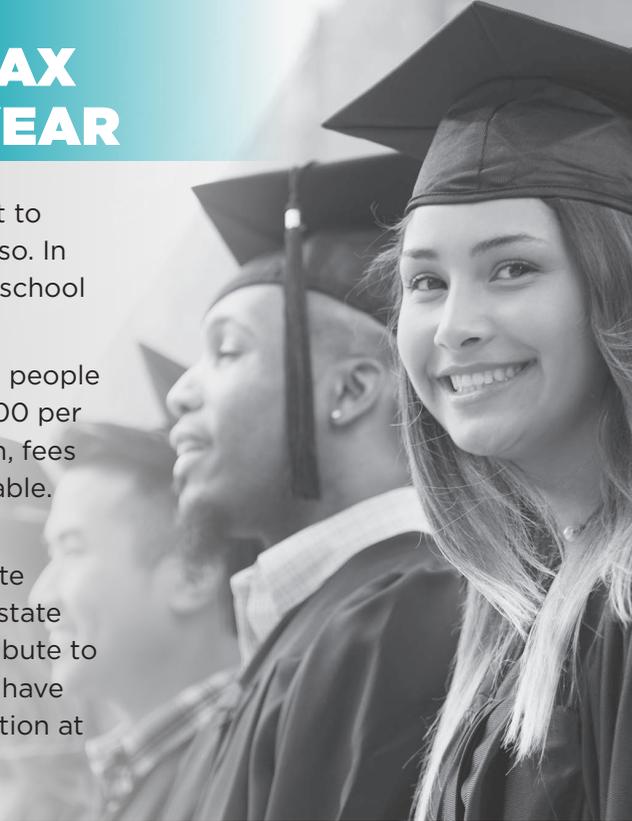
STATE SENATOR **LANA THEIS** • PHONE (517) 373-2420

# FOSTERING FUTURES TAX CHECKOFF NEW THIS YEAR

Many teens who emancipate from foster care want to attend college but don't have the resources to do so. In fact, less than 10 percent who graduate from high school go on to college.

The Fostering Futures Scholarship provides young people who have experienced foster care with up to \$3,000 per academic year for college expenses such as tuition, fees and books when no other assistance may be available.

More than \$1.2 million has been raised through fundraising efforts and donations since 2012. Senate legislation signed into law in 2018 now provides a state income tax checkoff option for taxpayers to contribute to the scholarship fund. Donations are voluntary and have no impact on the state budget. Find more information at [www.fosteringfutures-mi.com](http://www.fosteringfutures-mi.com).



## SENATOR THEIS SUPPORTS BILLS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

Every child should be able to grow up in a safe and secure home. Yet Michigan had more than 90,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2016 — the highest rates of abuse and neglect in the state in more than 25 years.

I recently supported legislation to better protect vulnerable children. Senate Bills 29-30 would increase the penalties for repeat third-and fourth-degree child abuse convictions to help keep children safer from subsequent abuse. Third-degree child abuse occurs when someone intentionally causes physical harm to a child. A person is guilty of child abuse in the fourth degree if their reckless actions cause physical harm.

The bills have been sent to the House for consideration.



## MiABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Michigan offers a special investment savings account program to help people with disabilities and their families plan for the future and cover costs to maintain health, independence and quality of life.

The Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience (MiABLE) savings account can be used for disability expenses, such as education, housing, transportation, job training and assistive technology without jeopardizing the individual's ability to qualify for necessary assistance programs.

For more information or to register an account, visit [www.miable.org](http://www.miable.org).