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## **Rep. Bollin, House approve plan to expand access to lifesaving COVID treatments**

State Rep. Ann Bollin and the Michigan House today approved to a plan that will expand access to COVID treatments like monoclonal antibodies and help ease worker shortages in the health care system.

The \$1.2 billion supplemental budget plan is funded entirely by federal COVID relief dollars allocated to the state.

“There are many promising treatments, like monoclonal antibodies, that are helping COVID patients recover quicker and more completely,” Bollin said. “This plan will boost access to these treatments and make them more readily available to people in our community. Individuals should have easy access to all treatment options.”

Highlights of the plan include:

**Early treatment in COVID cases:** Treatments such as monoclonal antibodies often help lessen the severity of COVID cases and allow patients to recover more quickly. Studies suggest the drugs can reduce the risk of hospitalization or death for COVID patients by up to 85 percent. Currently, delivery is bottlenecked at short-staffed hospitals – the House plan will expand

delivery to eight additional sites across Michigan. It invests \$175 million in buying and expanding delivery of the potential lifesaving drugs – and other medicines such as COVID treatment pills.

**Resources for communities, including nursing homes:** With thousands of unfilled health care positions across the state, the Legislature’s plan provides about \$300 million for health care employee recruitment and \$114 million in additional support for nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

“Nursing homes and long-term care facilities house some of our most vulnerable residents,” Bollin said. “These funds will help them make necessary steps to protect residents, like installing air filters, purchasing respirators and converting multi-bed units into single-occupancy rooms.”

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