

LEGISLATORS CALL FOR GAS TAX SUSPENSION, SPEAKER HALL DISAGREED – Some *Republicans* have joined the call to suspend the state gasoline tax amid rising gas prices, but *House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* had pushed back on the move before changing his stance.

The bigger picture: Michigan *Democrats* have been calling for a suspension on the gasoline tax as gas prices continue to rise. Last week, *House Democrats* tried to tie-bar fuel tax holiday legislation to several bills headed to the *House* floor. This week, *Republican* gubernatorial candidate *U.S. Representative John James* joined the call to suspend the tax. However, *House Republican* leadership does not believe a vote on the suspension is a serious move.

To read more, please click [here](#).

DHHS AUDIT SHOWS CHILD WELFARE FIXES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE – A follow-up report completed by state auditors was conducted to evaluate whether the *Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)* implemented measures related to *Children's Services Agency (CSA)* caseloads.

The bigger picture: An audit was originally conducted in 2021 that recommended *DHHS* improve upon two material conditions in relation to *CSA* - caseload monitoring and oversight. The follow-up issued by the *Office of Auditor General (OAG)* this week found that both conditions were not met. *DHHS* responded that they disagreed on the premise of the initial recommendations and purposefully did not take action to correct those measures.

To read more, please click [here](#).

NEW MEMBER PROFILES – As introduced in a previous edition of *This Week in Lansing*, *MHSA* will be continuing to introduce new legislative members in *This Week in Lansing*.

This feature is intended to introduce those that are expected to come to Lansing in 2027 given the safe seats they are running for. This is highlighting only new members in the *House* and *Senate*, so no incumbents will be highlighted. For the eighth edition of new member profiles, we will be highlighting the *8th*, *9th*, *97th* and *101st House Districts*.

To read more, please click [here](#).

ELECTIONS

- *Democratic Saginaw County Sheriff William Federspiel* endorsed *Republican Mike Rogers* for *U.S. Senate* this week. *Sheriff Federspiel* said that *Mr. Rogers* would be a strong federal partner to help with public safety needs in his community.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *House* recently introduced bills that aim to amend state laws that prevent previously incarcerated individuals from working in the healthcare industry. *House Bills 6399-6402* would address the healthcare workforce shortage by reducing the 15-year waiting period to 10 years for felonies and from 10-years to 5-years for certain misdemeanors.