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# Michigan: At the Forefront in Genetic Legislation

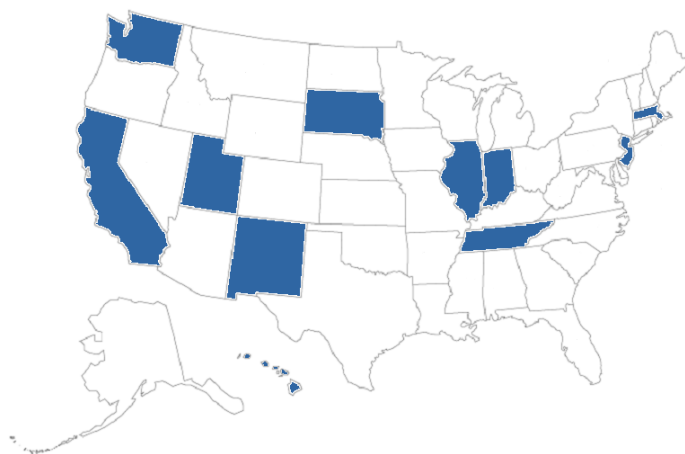
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Michigan's government has stood proudly at the forefront in passing legislation regarding matters related to genetics that affect our state's citizens. These laws and policies have aided in the protection of genetic information and defined the appropriate uses of rapidly advancing genetic technology. Various examples of such laws and policies can be reviewed at <http://www.migeneticsconnection.org/policy.shtml>.

Currently, Michigan is only one of two states with informed consent laws for genetic testing (Act 29 of 2000). The 1999 report from the Governor's Task Force on Genetic Privacy paved the way to passage of this law and others that were quite revolutionary at the time. These laws and policies address the burgeoning genetic issues that confront families including those related to newborn screening, employment discrimination due to genetic information, health insurance protection in light of genetic test results, and informed consent for genetic testing.

Now is the time to add further protections by licensing genetic counselors, the health professionals specifically trained to address the complex issues associated with genetic disease.



**States with  
legislation for  
licensing genetic  
counselors**

Currently, 11 states have passed legislation that licenses genetic counselors. In fact, some of Michigan's nearest neighbors in the Great Lakes Region, Illinois and Indiana, have enacted laws for genetic counseling licensure and Ohio and Wisconsin are actively pursuing it. This movement has set a standard for our region. It is critical that Michigan remain at the forefront in genetic legislation, protecting the quality of care our citizens receive.



**The leading advocate for quality genetic counseling services in the State of Michigan**