# **Biography**

About Debbie Stabenow

“Made in Michigan” through and through, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow continues to lead on public policy and improve the lives of the people of Michigan and Americans across our country. Her leadership is characterized by an unrivaled work ethic, the ability to build bipartisan coalitions to get things done, and a commitment to public service that has set the standard for constituent service.

Throughout her years in public service, she has blazed trails and opened doors for women and girls. Among her many “firsts” – she was the first woman elected to the United States Senate from Michigan.

As the author of two landmark programs that are transforming the health of our Great Lakes, there is no greater champion for our Great Lakes, natural resources, and Michigan way of life.

Senator Stabenow has persistently focused on making things in America and bringing jobs home. Because of her leadership, Michigan is well-positioned as a global leader in the clean energy economy. She knows that we can’t have a strong economy unless we make things and grow things. As Chairwoman of the powerful Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, her work continues to shape our nation’s food and farm policy, impacting generations to come.

Senator Stabenow helped write the Affordable Care Act and has passed major reforms to bring down the cost of prescription drugs. Her bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act is transforming the way we deliver high-quality community behavioral health services in America. Because of her leadership, we are now going to be funding health care above the neck the same as health care below the neck.

From child nutrition, to school-based health clinics, to children’s healthcare, Senator Stabenow is also a national leader on children’s health.

**Congressional Legislation Authored by Senator Debbie Stabenow Signed into Law**

1. 1998: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act  
2. 1998: Automobile National Heritage Area Act  
3. 2001: Banned drilling in the Great Lakes for 2 years  
4. 2002: Unity in the Spirit Of America (USA) Act  
5. 2002: Specialty Crop Purchase Program  
6. 2003: Established Financial Literacy Commission  
7. 2003: Required FTC to examine how unreported transactions affect the credit ratings of lower-income borrowers.  
8. 2003: Required Federal Trade Commission to undertake an aggressive anti-identity theft media campaign  
9. 2003: Ended protection against lawsuits for Eli Lilly and other drug manufactures over the use of the mercury-based compound thimerosal  
10. 2003: Extended the ban on drilling in the Great Lakes  
11. 2003: Funded programs to address cormorant problem  
12. 2004: Extended ban on drilling in the Great Lakes  
13. 2004: Gave lenders more flexibility to expand loans for small businesses.  
14. 2004: Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act  
15. 2005: Passed permanent ban on drilling in the Great Lakes  
16. 2005: Renamed the Federal Homeland Security Building in Detroit after Rosa Parks  
17. 2005: Investigated if gas prices were being artificially manipulated  
18. 2005: Funding for Treasury to combat trade violations  
19. 2006: Michigan Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Act  
20. 2007: Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act  
21. 2007: Cracked down on frivolous petitions that delay access to generic drugs  
22. 2007: Required Treasury to report to Congress which U.S. trading partners are manipulating their currency.  
23. 2008: Additional tax benefits for seniors and disabled veterans.  
24. 2007: Named the Veterans Clinic in Alpena after Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner.  
25. 2007: Specialty Crop Block Grants  
26. 2007: Support for Asparagus Producers  
27. 2007: National Institute for Food and Agriculture (S.1094)  
28. 2008: Allowed manufacturers to utilize built-up tax credits to invest in their businesses.  
29. 2008: Extended unemployment insurance by 13 weeks.  
30. 2008: Extended of Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act  
31. 2008: Green Jobs Initiative  
32. 2008: Passed the Great Lakes Compact Resolution  
33. 2009: Extended Children’s Health Insurance (CHIP)  
34. 2009: Expanded health care electronic records usage  
35. 2009: Auto Ownership Tax Assistance  
36. 2009: Continued Green Jobs Initiative with new Clean Energy Fund  
37. 2009: Helped manufacturers remain competitive in the MEP partnership.  
38. 2009: Increased funding for programs that help address unemployment insurance and job training in states and localities with the highest unemployment rate  
39. 2009: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative  
40. 2009: Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act  
41. 2009: Drive American Forward Act  
42. 2010: Ensured insurance plans conform to the same consumer protections and market rules  
43. 2010: Required exchange plans to follow mental health parity requirements like other health insurers and plans  
44. 2010: Established a network of centers of excellence for depression through SAMSA  
45. 2010: Made sure Medicaid beneficiaries with mental illness would be eligible for coordinated services under the new Medicaid option promoting health homes and integrated care  
46. 2010: Added community mental health centers to the list of examples of designated providers eligible to participate in the program  
47. 2010: Made sure states had the option of including family planning as part of their Medicaid programs  
48. 2010: Created a $200 million “Graduate Nurse Education” demonstration program to train advance practice nurses  
49. 2010: Made sure businesses could take advantage of health tax credits sooner  
50. 2010: Expanded eligibility for small business health tax credit  
51. 2010: Allowed Part D sponsors to waive co-pays as an incentive to encourage seniors to try generic drugs, also known as “free generic fill”  
52. 2010: Established a nationwide program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of certain long-term care (LTC) facilities or providers and provide Federal matching funds to states to conduct these activities  
53. 2010: Required improvements to long term care facilities  
54. 2010: $200 million in funding for school based health centers  
55. 2010: Made sure vulnerable children had access to school based care  
56. 2010: Allowed stand-alone dental plans to continue and offer the required pediatric dental services to be offered in the individual and small group markets including within the insurance exchanges  
57. 2010: Provided $5 billion in funding to insure early retirees  
58. 2010: Required HHS to develop guidelines to permit a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage to utilize value-based insurance designs  
59. 2010: Required community health centers and other safety-net facilities be designated providers with the new exchange plans  
60. 2010: Reduced tax burdens on individuals by delaying application of Cadillac Tax  
61. 2010: Excluded stand alone dental and vision plans from taxes  
62. 2010: Permitted employers to reduce the cost of the coverage when applying the tax if the employer’s age and gender demographics are not representative of the age and gender demographics of a national risk pool  
63. 2011: Named U.S Patent Office After Elijah McCoy  
64. 2011: Repealed the burdensome 1099 requirement that hurt small businesses  
65. 2012: Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2012  
66. 2012: Made sure women are better represented in clinical trials  
67. 2012: Stop Invasive Species Act  
68. 2002: Extended Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act  
69. 2013: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Conservation and Lakeshore Conservation Act  
70. 2014: Extension of seven-year depreciation schedule for motorsports complexes  
71. 2014: AMT in lieu of bonus depreciation  
72. 2014: Excellence in Mental Health Act  
73. 2014: Gun Lake Trust Land Reaffirmation Act  
74. 2014: 5-year Farm Bill  
75. 2014: Agriculture Rick Coverage Program (eliminate Direct Payments) (2014 Farm Bill)  
76. 2014: Margin Protection Program and Revisions for Dairy Producers (2014 Farm Bill)  
77. 2014: Dairy Product Donation Program (2014 Farm Bill)  
78. 2014: Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (2014 Farm Bill)  
79. 2014: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (2014 Farm Bill)  
80. 2014: Expanded Conservation Compliance (2014 Farm Bill)  
81. 2014: Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program (2014 Farm Bill)  
82. 2014: Foundation for Food and Ag Research (2014 Farm Bill)  
83. 2014: Nationwide Good Neighbor Authority (forestry) (2014 Farm Bill)  
84. 2014: Expansion of crop insurance to specialty crops and organics (2014 Farm Bill)  
85. 2014: Training and Coordination for Food and Ag Protection (IFTPI) (2014 Farm Bill)  
86. 2014: Military Veterans Liaison at USDA (2014 Farm Bill)  
87. 2014: Increased flexibility in international food aid programs provides food for 800,000 people each year around the world at no additional cost. (2014 Farm Bill)  
88. 2014: Extension of Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act  
89. 2015: 2 years of funding for community health centers  
90. 2015: Banned plastic micro beads out of the Great Lakes  
91. 2015: Established a permanent Interagency Trade Enforcement Center and Chief Manufacturing Negotiator  
92. 2015: Improved domestic airfields for defense use  
93. 2015: Permanent conservation easements  
94. 2015: Charitable Agricultural Research Act  
95. 2015: Modified bonus depreciation to help blueberry growers  
96. 2015: Increased eligibility for empowerment zones  
97. 2015: Passed private mortgage insurance deduction  
98. 2015: Extended bonus depreciation  
99. 2015: Make the R&D tax credit permanent  
100. 2015: Made Section 179 expensing for small businesses permanent  
101. 2015: Extension of seven-year depreciations schedule for motorsports complexes  
102. 2015: Michigan and other states received additional funding for blight removal  
103. 2015: Mandatory Price Reporting for Livestock  
104. 2015: National Forest Foundation  
105. 2015: US Grain Standards Act Reauthorization  
106. 2015: Comprehensive review of access and quality of women’s health services for  
servicewomen  
107. 2015: Access to additional funding for School Based Health Centers  
108. 2016: Extension of Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act  
109. 2016: Funding to fix the pipes in Flint and help children exposed to lead  
110. 2016: S.2579 - Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act  
111. 2016: Allowed Michigan Veteran James C. McCloughan to be awarded the medal of  
Honor  
112. 2017: Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act  
113. 2018: Funding for ambulance providers  
114. 2018: Extended Mortgage Tax Forgiveness Act  
115. 2018: Expanded access to cardiac rehabilitation programs  
116. 2018: Expansion of value-based insurance design  
117. 2018: Repealed Independent Payment Advisory Board  
118. 2018: Funded children’s health insurance program (CHIP) for 10 years  
119. 2018: Funding for mental health based on Excellence in Mental Health Act  
120. 2018: Career Counseling legislation (Perkins Career and Technical Education Act)  
121. 2018: Required prompt payments to providers in the VA Mission Act  
122. 2018: Funded community health centers for 2 years  
123. 2018: Navigation protocols to stop Asian Carp  
124. 2018: Accountability for Brandon Road completion  
125. 2018: Additional funding for PFAS  
126. 2018: Additional funding for community mental health  
127. 2018: Stopped gag clauses in Medicare Part D plans  
128. 2018: Stopped gag clauses in private insurance plan  
129. 2018: Help for Moms and Babies  
130. 2018: CHIP Mental Health Parity  
131. 2018: Soo Locks Modernization Act  
132. 2018: Increased federal cost-share for operation and maintenance at Brandon Road to 80% federal (currently 0%)  
133. 2018: Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study  
134. 2018: Additional funding for PFAS contaminations in small and disadvantaged communities  
135. 2018: 5-year Farm Bill  
136. 2018: Expands crop insurance coverage to new crops and more than doubles the disaster assistance options for crops not eligible for insurance (2018 Farm Bill)  
137. 2018: Improves and expands dairy margin coverage program (2018 Farm Bill)  
138. 2018: $500 million for farmers markets and local food systems (2018 Farm Bill)  
139. 2018: $435 million to support minority, veteran, and beginning farmers (2018 Farm Bill)  
140. 2018: Expanded support for military veterans with careers in agriculture (2018 Farm Bill)  
141. 2018: Establish historic new office and support for urban agriculture (2018 Farm Bill)  
142. 2018: $395 million in funding for organic research (2018 Farm Bill)  
143. 2018: Improves regional conservation partnerships and triples funding (2018 Farm Bill)  
144. 2018: Promote climate-smart agriculture by encouraging cover crops, and a new soil health pilot to sequester carbon (2018 Farm Bill)  
145. 2018: Doubles investments for Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives that encourage SNAP participants to purchase fruits and vegetables (2018 Farm Bill)  
146. 2018: Establish new produce prescription initiatives that make fruits and vegetables more accessible and affordable for families (2018 Farm Bill)  
147. 2018: Target infrastructure investments to ensure small town water systems are providing clean and reliable tap water (2018 Farm Bill)  
148. 2018: Reestablish the Under Secretary of Rural Development at USDA (2018 Farm Bill)  
149. 2018: Timber Innovation Act (2018 Farm Bill)  
150. 2018: Expands the Good Neighbor Authority for the US Forest Service (2018 Farm Bill)  
151. 2018: Expanded testing for lead in school and provided assistance to replace drinking fountains  
152. 2019: Pesticide Registration Improvement Act  
153. 2019: NDAA - IMPROVE Transition for Service Members Act, 2019  
154. 2019: NDAA – PFAS Monitoring Act  
155. 2019: NDAA – PFAS Accountability Act  
156. 2019: Patient Access to Cellular Transplant (PACT) Act included in omni  
157. 2020: $1.4 billion (approximately) for 2 more demo states + extension through FY23 of all 10 states. (CARES Act) This includes Michigan for the first time.  
158. 2020: School-Based Health Centers Reauthorization Act  
159. 2020: Improving HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
160. 2020: Flint Registry Reauthorization Act (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
161. 2020: CHIME Act (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
162. 2020: Great Lakes Navigation Act (WRDA)  
163. 2020: NDAA, amendment to increase accountability and transparency to Buy American  
Laws.  
164. 2020: GLRI Act (S. 2295)  
165. 2020: $250 million for CCBHCs (CARES Act)  
166. 2020: $850 million for CCBHCs ($600 million COVID title, $250 million Appropriation title)  
167. 2020: 5 year extension (through 2025) of the tax exclusion for mortgage debt forgiveness (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
168. 2020: 5 year extension of motorsports entertainment complexes (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
169. 2020: U.S. Grain Standards Reauthorization Act (S.4054)  
170. 2020: National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (S.2695) (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
171. 2020: Increase in SNAP Benefits/Food Banks/WIC (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
172. 2020: $1.5 billion to support food purchases and donations (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
173. 2020: $400 million for Dairy Product Donation (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
174. 2021: $10B to reauthorize and fund the State Small Business Credit Initiative  
(S.258 in the 117th Congress, ARPA)  
175. 2020: $350 million to support specialty crops, local agriculture, healthy food purchases, and underserved farmers (Consolidated Appropriations, 2021)  
176. 2021: Over $10 billion for Food Assistance for Children, Families and Seniors (ARPA)  
177. 2021: $ 4 billion to Strengthen Food Supply Chain/Protect Workers, based on Food Supply Protection Act (ARPA)  
178. 2021: $420 million for CCBHCs grant funding.  
179. 2021: $5 billion to Support Farmers of Color through debt relief and expanded opportunities, based on Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act (ARPA)

**50 Michigan Public Acts Sponsored By Debbie Stabenow**1. Created Neighborhood Assistance Program (PA #56, 4/1/80; HLAS, 3/27/80)  
2. Computerize the Register of Deeds’ indices (PA #95, 4/16/80)  
3. Repealed the grain tax (PA #68, 4/30/80)  
4. Required monitoring of treatment after a patient is released from a mental hospital ( PA #409, 1/8/81)  
5. Established warrantless arrests for spousal abuse (PA 471, 1/17/81)  
6. Eliminated the need for park commissions and allowed county governments to take mill increases directly to voters (PA #164, 5/25/82)  
7. Credited a portion of income tax refunds to the Children’s Trust Fund (PA #211, 7/2/82)  
8. Created the Children’s Trust Fund (PA #249, 9/29/82)  
9. Friend of the Court reform (PA #295, 10/9/82)  
10. Friend of the Court reform (PA #296, 10/9/82)  
11. Friend of the Court reform (PA #297, 10/9/82)  
12. Friend of the Court reform (PA #298, 10/9/82)  
13. Friend of the Court reform (PA #294, 10/9/82)  
14. Modified the Domestic Violence Board (PA #383, 12/28/82)  
15. Friend of the Court reform (PA #108, 7/1/83)  
16. Modified revenue sharing for local governments (PA #146, 7/18/83)  
17. Friend of the Court reform (PA #193, 11/1/83)  
18. Friend of the Court reform (PA #192, 11/1/83)  
19. Friend of the Court reform (PA #194, 11/1/83)  
20. Friend of the Court reform (PA #195, 11/1/83)  
21. Allowed circuit courts to issue injunctions in domestic abuse cases (PA #228, 11/28/83)  
22. Allowed circuit courts to issue injunctions in spouse abuse cases (PA #229, 11/28/83)  
23. Family Support Subsidy Act provides support for families caring for severely disabled children at home (PA #249, 12/15/83)  
24. Created mental health requirements for the voluntary admission of minors (PA #186, 7/2/84)  
25. “Equal Access to Justice Act gave individuals, small businesses, and non-profit organizations the right to be reimbursed for attorney fees and court costs when successfully defending themselves against frivolous state actions (PA #196, 7/3/84)  
26. “Equal Access to Justice Act gave individuals, small businesses, and non-profit organizations the right to be reimbursed for attorney fees and court costs when successfully defending themselves against frivolous state actions (PA #197, 7/3/84)  
27. Defines autism in the mental health code (PA #358, 12/26/84)  
28. Increased amounts to the Children’s Trust Fund check-off (PA #156, 11/15/85)  
29. Friend of the Court reform (PA #172, 11/29/85)  
30. Fingerprinting of children (PA #176, 12/2/85)  
31. Voluntary fingerprinting with exception for children (PA #175, 12/2/85)  
32. Created exceptions to barrier free design requirements (PA #196, 12/19/85)  
33. Established a grant program for part-time students (PA #106, 5/13/86)  
34. Updated civil admission and discharge procedures for the mentally ill (PA #117, 5/24/86  
35. Made TV and radio reporters’ sources privileged and confidential ( PA #293, 12/20/86)  
36. Mandated retirement of incapacitated judges (PA #102, 7/7/87)  
37. Reformed law regarding mental health services for children (PA #155, 6/14/88)  
38. Added a resident member to proposed superconductor super collider commission (PA #157, 6/14/88)  
39. Child care funds for county juvenile justice services (PA #223, 7/1/88)  
40. Established new criteria for removing child from home (PA #224, 7/1/88)  
41. Review of minors in Michigan’s children institute (PA #225, 7/1/88)  
42. Modified Division of Deafness Act (PA #434, 12/24/88)  
43. Modified Division of Deafness Act (PA #435, 12/24/88)  
44. Reformed Pesticide Control Act (PA #449, 12/25/88)  
45. Legalized the use of crane amusement switches (PA #464, 12/25/88)  
46. Modified foster care review boards (PA #73, 6/15/89)  
47. Modified foster care review boards (PA #74, 6/15/89¬)  
48. Protected Great Lakes water resources (PA #327, 12/20/90)  
49. Toughened drunk driving laws (PA #93, 8/1/91)  
50. Modified village council compensation requirements (PA #42, 5/13/92)

# **Key Issues**

## [**Making Quality Health Care Affordable**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/making-quality-health-care-affordable)

* Senator Stabenow believes that quality healthcare is a basic human right. As a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee and Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, she has led efforts in Congress to make health care more affordable. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/making-quality-health-care-affordable)

## [**Environment and Great Lakes**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/environment-and-great-lakes)

* Senator Debbie Stabenow is the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force and is one of our greatest champions for protecting our Great Lakes and environment. As someone who has lived in Michigan her whole life, Stabenow understands that our Great Lakes and waterways are vital to our economy and our way of life—supporting more than 800,000 Michigan jobs. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/environment-and-great-lakes)

## [**Standing Up for Our Veterans**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/standing-up-for-our-veterans)

* U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow believes our veterans should not stand at the back of any line. Whether it’s health care, education, a chance at a good job, or the military recognitions they earned in service, our nation must keep its promises to our heroes who have served. She learned this respect for service from her own family – her father served in World War II. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/standing-up-for-our-veterans)

## [**New Skills for New Jobs Agenda**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/new-skills-for-new-jobs-agenda)

* As Sen. Stabenow travels the state, she frequently meets with business owners who express a critical need for more skilled workers. She also meets with labor leaders who offer opportunities for training and apprenticeships for good-paying jobs in the skilled trades. And she hears from parents frustrated with the lack of opportunities for their children who are not college-bound as well as educators who are innovating to meet these needs. Last summer, she brought all of these leaders together in communities across the state to discuss how we can partner to meet the needs of employers and provide job opportunities for all Michigan workers and students. Now she is introducing her **New Skills for New Jobs Agenda** to help every young person get the skills they need for a good-paying job. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/new-skills-for-new-jobs-agenda)

## [**American Jobs Agenda**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/american-jobs-agenda)

* Senator Stabenow is laser-focused on creating jobs here in America. Her American Jobs Agenda will ensure we are making products in America, closing loopholes that send jobs overseas, and holding countries like China accountable for unfair trade practices. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/american-jobs-agenda)

## [**Supporting Michigan’s Agricultural Economy**](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/supporting-michigans-agricultural-economy)

* Senator Debbie Stabenow is a champion for Michigan agriculture and rural communities. As Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, she wrote the bipartisan 2014 Farm Bill, which streamlined more than 100 programs while making historic investments in land and water conservation, local food systems, and specialty crops. As the current Chairwoman of the Committee, she built on that progress by co-authoring the historic [2018 Farm Bill](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2018%20Farm%20Bill%20MI%20Handout.pdf), which passed on a strong bipartisan Senate vote of 87-13 – the most votes in favor of a Farm Bill in history. The bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill strengthens Michigan’s agricultural economy, which is the state’s second-largest industry, supporting one in four jobs. The bill also has a major impact in protecting Michigan’s Great Lakes, investing in our small towns and rural communities, promoting Michigan forestry, growing local food economies, and providing healthy food for families. [***More***](https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/about/issues/supporting-michigans-agricultural-economy)