



## Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox wins case to slash Blue Cross rate increase to seniors

Posted by [Elizabeth Shaw](#) | [The Flint Journal](#) August 24, 2009 07:41AM

**LANSING, Michigan** -- Michigan seniors will face a lower rate increase than expected from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, after the state office of Finance and Insurance Regulation denied the BCGSM request for a 31.2% interim rate increase.

Seniors can now expect an increase of 4.7 percent -- 26.5 percent lower than the requested increase, according to a news release from the state Attorney General's office.

The decision should save more than 200,000 seniors a total of at least \$30 million, the news release said.

The OFIR also recently approved reductions in other proposed BCBSM rate increases that will save families who buy their own health insurance about \$160 million. That decision cut the BCGSM non-group rate request by 34 percent, down to 22 percent, and reduced the requested Group Conversion rate increase by 19%, also down to 22 percent.

The decision was called a "major breakthrough in keeping Medicare supplemental policies more affordable in Michigan" by Mary Ablan, Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan.

BCBSM, in a public letter to Michigan legislators, stated that even with their recent rate increase, Blue Cross will continue to lose money on its individual products because costs will exceed premiums collected for those individuals.