Michigan has become the third state in the Midwest to require certain recipients of public benefits to undergo drug testing. Signed into law in late December, HB 4118 and SB 275 will operate as a one-year pilot program in three counties. In those counties, some recipients of cash assistance will be drug-tested based on an “empirically validated substance abuse screening tool.”

Individuals who test positive will lose assistance if they don’t participate in a treatment program or if they fail to submit to periodic testing. Since 1996, states have had the authority under federal law to require welfare recipients to undergo drug testing. Minnesota and Kansas are among the other U.S. states with drug-testing laws in place.

By:
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