



37TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-1793
E-MAIL: christinegreig@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHRISTINE GREIG
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEES:
COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
WORKFORCE AND
TALENT DEVELOPMENT

May 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Dana Nessel
Attorney General
G. Mennen Williams Building, 7th Floor
525 West Ottawa Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Re: Request for an Attorney General Opinion
Michigan State Capitol Commission Authority to Prohibit Firearms

Dear Attorney General Nessel:

The Michigan State Capitol Commission has long claimed that it is barred by law from regulating or prohibiting firearms within the State Capitol building. It is my strong belief, based on an exhaustive review of the relevant authorities, that the Commission's legal claim is erroneous and that its current policy invites armed intimidation of legislators, staff, and members of the general public. Such intimidation is injurious to the legislative process and undermines representative democracy. The question of the Commission's authority has been given new exigency given recent disturbing events at the Capitol that have left many legislators and citizens deeply concerned for their safety and wellbeing.

Your May 8th letter to the Commission provided much needed clarity on the question of their authority to address this pressing matter. However, I was deeply troubled to read reports of certain Commission members dismissing¹ the letter owing to the fact that it was not a "formal" opinion of the Attorney General. Now is not the time for gamesmanship, partisan politics, or equivocation. Now is the time to take urgent action to protect public safety and the legislative process from those who would do violence to both.

¹ Paul Egan, Commission has authority to ban guns inside Michigan Capitol, AG says, Detroit Free Press <<https://bit.ly/2WiN7FQ>> (May 8, 2020).

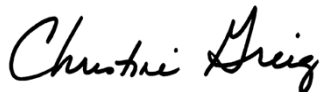
The Honorable Dana Nessel
May 9, 2020
Page 2

As such, and as provided for in MCL 14.32, I am writing to request your formal opinion on a question of law:

Is the Michigan State Capitol Commission vested with the authority to prohibit firearms in the areas under its control?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Greig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Greig
Democratic Leader
Michigan House of Representatives

CEG/nat