



**SARAH E. ANTHONY**

21ST DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-6960

FAX: (517) 373-0897

[sensanthony@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sensanthony@senate.michigan.gov)

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

December 16, 2025

State of Michigan  
The Honorable Dana Nessel, Attorney General  
Attn: Opinion Department  
G. Mennen Williams Building  
P.O. Box 30212  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Request for Formal Opinion

Dear Attorney General Nessel:

Last week, the Appropriations Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives invoked a rarely used provision in The Management and Budget Act (“the Act”), 1984 PA 431, to discontinue nearly \$645 million in funding that was already approved by a prior legislature and the governor.

Much of this funding has already been designated to numerous organizations for a variety of critical purposes, including supporting new mothers and babies during the most vulnerable stage of life, providing wigs to children battling cancer, investing in affordable housing solutions, combating the opioid epidemic, and many more items that support the well-being of residents across our entire state.

The scope of this action is unprecedented, and as such, it has raised serious questions about the legality of Section 451a of the Act and the committee’s application of that language. To that end, I ask for your opinion as to the following question:

**Whether the provision in MCL 18.1451a(3), allowing either the Senate or House Appropriations committees to disapprove work projects designated by the State Budget Director, violates the Michigan Constitution?**

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Anthony".

Sarah Anthony  
21<sup>st</sup> District