



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 8, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution Honoring Congressman William David Ford

Attached is a draft resolution honoring the late Congressman William David Ford.

The resolution pays tribute to Congressman Ford, a man who spent his life in service to his country and fellow citizens.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the Resolution Honoring Congressman William David Ford, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 8, 2004.

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## RESOLUTION

### CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM DAVID FORD

WHEREAS, William (Bill) David Ford was born August 6, 1927, in Detroit, Michigan, the eldest child of immigrant Scottish parents and the first member of his family to attend college; and

WHEREAS, William Ford served in the U. S. Navy from 1944 to 1946, and was a member of the U. S. Air Force Reserve from 1950 to 1958; following his service in the U. S. Navy, he attended the University of Denver on the GI Bill where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949, and an L.L.D. from the University of Denver Law School in 1951; and

WHEREAS, William Ford following graduation from law school, was a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention in 1961-62, a member of the Michigan Senate from 1962 to 1964, in addition to serving as city attorney of Melvindale, Michigan, and an attorney and justice of the peace of Taylor Township, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, William Ford was elected to the United States House of Representatives from 1965 to 1995, representing Michigan's 15<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts where, during his thirty-year tenure he served as Chairman of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and as Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Ford was the author of the Middle Income Student Assistance Act, the Plant Closing Act, and orchestrated the passage of the Family Medical Leave Act, the first law signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 the Federal Direct Student Loan Program was named for him in recognition of his efforts to expand postsecondary educational opportunities for students and to lower the cost of a college education for them; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Ford had a special interest in programs serving students from migrant farm worker families, was a champion of federal compensatory education programs to serve educationally disadvantaged children, and was an original sponsor of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Ford's distinguished career demonstrated to the people of this state his commitment to students and families at all levels; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Ford clearly understood that the meaning of our great democracy can be found in our nation's public schools, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends its most sincere condolences to the family of William David Ford for their profound loss upon the death of this remarkable person on August 14, 2004.