WHEREAS, Michigan’s students should be provided educational opportunities that equip them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that will prepare them to become the next generation of community leaders; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s schools should prepare students to effectively participate in a multicultural society and global economy that is more democratic, equitable and just; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s students should be educated on their social identity and that of others to effectively enable them to replace prejudice, bias, and stereotypes with acceptance, understanding and unity; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s schools, teachers, and students should have ready access to civil rights and social justice learning opportunities to better themselves, their institutions, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s students who have learned about social justice foster environments that promote engagement, celebrate diversity, strengthen equal opportunity for all, eliminate inequities, and confront discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s students should understand their right to assemble, protest, and/or organize community action projects, empowering students to protect themselves and others from injustices and to be able to rectify said injustices; and

WHEREAS, Schools that lack the resources, including qualified and experienced staff and educators, or otherwise fail to address race-sensitive issues through education and dialogue, ultimately undermine students’ development and their ability to recognize, understand, avoid, and respond to stereotypes, bigotry, racism, sexism and gender, religious, and other inequalities; it is therefore

RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission will continue to promote civil rights education and diversity learning through public forums and youth dialogues; and

RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission encourages schools, school districts, and school boards to adopt policies and practices that promote an understanding and appreciation of diversity; and

RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission encourages schools, school districts, and school boards to provide civil rights education to students through courses, workshops, or other methods; and

RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission encourages schools, school districts, and school boards to implement best practices that promote the ability of all students to constructively exercise their first amendment rights and to speak on the policy issues that concern them, through public forums, student representation on school boards, and other civic engagement programs; and it is finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission encourages schools, school districts, and school boards to educate and train school faculty to recognize and nurture sensitive situations involving social justice and civil rights issues and secure third-party experts where appropriate.

Adopted on the 29th day of January 2015, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Arthur M. Horrell, Chair
Agnesin V. Afanni, Secretary
Dorothy Hunt
Bradley Voss

Rosa Demashkhe, Vice Chair
Mumtaz Hague
Linda Lee Tarver