



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION**In Support of the Detroit Literacy Lawsuit Settlement**

WHEREAS, in 2016, a group of students initiated a lawsuit against the Governor of the State of Michigan, the members of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Department of Technology, Management and Budget; and the State School Reform/Redesign Officer; and

WHEREAS, the student plaintiffs alleged they were denied services required for an opportunity to achieve a minimum level of education while attending Detroit schools; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2019, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission adopted a resolution declaring “public education to be a civil rights issue, and a minimally effective education to be a civil right”; and

WHEREAS, in support of the resolution, the Commission stated that, “This Commission agrees with the Detroit School Children who brought the lawsuit. . . As a state and a nation, we recognize that EVERY student needs a basic education to prepare them for the possibility of being successful and productive members of society. This unquestionably includes at its core the opportunity to attain literacy.”; and

WHEREAS, in its Education Equity in Michigan report, the Commission supported the Detroit students, noting that, “We also can take steps to help students in Detroit, who are the subject of a pending lawsuit, so they don’t have to use outdated textbooks, endure moldy smells, dead mice, leaky ceilings within the school buildings, or rely on an exorbitant number of substitute and uncertified teachers.”; and

WHEREAS, in a May 2020 settlement resolving the Detroit Public Schools case, the parties agreed that, as a matter of principle, all children deserve an opportunity to obtain a minimum basic education and, in particular, the Governor agreed that every child in the State of Michigan should have access to an educational environment in which “it is plausible to attain literacy”; and

WHEREAS, in the settlement, the Governor agreed to diligently propose and support legislation which, if enacted by the Michigan Legislature, would provide the Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD) with at least \$94.4 Million of funding for literacy-related programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 148, introduced by Senator Adam Hollier, and House Bill 4480, introduced by Representative Shri Thanedar, would each provide the agreed upon \$94.4 Million to DPSCD.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission reaffirms its support of Detroit Public Schools students, commends the parties for recognizing the need to allocate \$94.4 million to the needs of those students, and urges passage of SB 148 or HB 4480; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, House Speaker, House Minority Leader, House Education Committee, House School Aid and Department of Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee, and the Senate K-12 and Department of Education Appropriations Subcommittee.



Passed unanimously on the 26th day of July 2021, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Stacie Clayton, Chair

Zenna Faraj Elhasan, Vice Chair

Ira Combs, Secretary

Richard Corriveau

Regina Gasco-Bentley

Anupama Kosaraju

Gloria E. Lara

Portia L. Roberson