



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

to conduct hearings regarding alleged issues of discrimination
in the educational system in Michigan

Whereas, Article 5, Section 29 of the Michigan Constitution establishes a civil rights commission whose duty is in a manner prescribed by law to investigate alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin in the enjoyment of civil rights guaranteed by law and by the constitution, and to secure the equal protection of such civil rights without such discrimination;

Whereas, Act 453 of 1975, known as the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and related Acts, prohibits discriminatory practices, policies and customs in the exercise of those rights based upon, religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, disability or marital status;

Whereas, Article 5, Section 29 of the Michigan Constitution, empowers the commission to hold hearings, administer oaths, through court authorization require the attendance of witnesses and the submission of records, to take testimony, and to issue appropriate orders;

Whereas, Article 6 (2) of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act stipulates that the commission may hold hearings, administer oaths, issue preliminary notices of witnesses to appear, compel through court authorization the attendance of witnesses and the production for examination of books, papers, or other records relating to matters before the commission, take testimony of a person under oath, and issue appropriate orders;

AND

Whereas, Based on the opinion of multiple experts across the State of Michigan who unanimously assert that Michigan's educational system is in crisis. And based on reports that show that minority and special needs students are the most vulnerable based on inequities as documented in the MCRC Flint Water Crisis Report published in February 2017;

Therefore, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission shall utilize the powers granted to it by the Michigan Constitution, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and related Acts to convene a series of at least three (3) public hearings to accept and/or compel testimony to address the question of whether the Civil Rights of underserved students in Michigan have been violated or abridged.

Subject to the approval by a majority of its members present at a properly convened meeting, the commission also directs the Michigan Department of Civil Rights to allocate the resources necessary to enable the commission to convene the first of a series of public hearing to be held on or before May 31, 2018.



Passed unanimously on the 26th day of March, 2018, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mumtaz Haque, Co-Chair

Rasha Demashkieh, Secretary

Ira Combs

Ricardo Resio

Laura Reyes-Kopack, Co-Chair

Stacie Clayton

Jeffrey Sakwa

Alma Wheeler Smith