



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

State Board of Education

Resolution on Proposed Ballot Initiative

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer vetoed Senate Bill 687, Senate Bill 688, and House Bill 5405, a package of bills that would grant tax credits for contributions to scholarship programs that could be used for nonpublic schooling;

WHEREAS, a group is paying circulators to gather signatures ostensibly for a ballot initiative to enact these bills into law, without the governor's signature;

WHEREAS, if at least 340,047 valid signatures are collected, this ballot initiative may be presented to the state legislature for approval, without placement on the ballot, a majority vote of the people, or the possibility of a governor's veto;

WHEREAS, Michigan's Constitution requires the state to maintain and support a system of free, public elementary and secondary schools;

WHEREAS, Michigan's Constitution prohibits any "payment, credit, tax benefit exemption or deduction, tuition voucher, subsidy grant or loan of public money" from being provided "directly or indirectly to support the attendance of any student at any nonpublic school";

WHEREAS, if enacted, the Senate Fiscal Agency estimates that this voucher proposal would reduce state revenue by as much as \$500 million in the first year, with the potential for revenue loss to increase 20% per year in later years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Board of Education strongly opposes this ballot initiative and urges voters to decline to sign these petitions.

Adopted June 14, 2022

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788