

Michigan Student Caucus Platform 2005-2006

The Michigan Student Caucus, consisting of hundreds of high school and college students across Michigan, resolves the following (unedited version):

RESOLUTION: Controlling the Invasive Species population in the Great Lakes

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Julie Kornfeld on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 07:42:13 EST

Whereas nonnative fish, plants and mollusks harm the great lakes surrounding Michigan; and

Whereas zebra mussels alone cost the Michigan one billion dollars over the last decade to help control the extreme problem. U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers, R-Mich., and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., are sponsoring bills in the House and Senate that would spend more than \$160 million annually to study invasive species and figure out ways to prevent them from arriving in the first place; and

Whereas there are two different types of invasive species, invasive animals and invasive plants. More than one-third of invasive species have been introduced in the last 30 years. Each invasive animal species alone causes their own damage to the lakes; and

Whereas zebra mussels, a mollusk, out-compete native animals and clog intake pipes at power plants and municipal water sources. They have wiped out the native calm ecosystem; and

Whereas the newest species to enter our Great Lakes is the spiny water flea, originally from the Middles Eastern seas. It reproduces sexually and parthenogenically (without fertilization) which allows the spiny water flea to quickly spread throughout the lakes; and

Whereas twenty five non-native species of fish have entered the Great Lakes since the 1800s including round goby, sea lamprey, Eurasian ruffe and alewife; and

Whereas all together these native animal species impact the Great Lakes food web because they compete with the native fish for food and habitat. They are also responsible for degradation of coastal wetlands. These invasive species attack native fish, kill indigenous plants and alter natural habitats; and

Whereas the most recent threat of invasive species is the incoming Asian carp. They have steadily made there way northward from the Mississippi river and now threaten the biodiversity of the Great Lakes. The Asian carp would disrupt the food chain that supports the native fish of the Great Lakes. Due to their large size, ravenous appetites, and rapid rate of reproduction, these fish could pose a significant risk to the Great Lakes Ecosystem; and

Whereas the other type of invasive species, invasive plants, also harm the lakes surrounding Michigan; and

Whereas the purple loosestrife, a wetland plant, displaces wetland plants and takes away food from other native wildlife; and

Whereas common reed, reed canary grass, Eurasian milfoil, frogbit and two types of cattails (tyoha angustifolian and typha glauca) also contribute to the problem. Some of these plants are prolific speed producers, which makes them capable of spreading rapidly in large areas in short periods of time. They tamper with swimming and boating; THEREFORE, BE IT

Be it Resolved; in order to prevent the introduction of the new invasive species, Asian carp, the great state of Michigan shall follow the example of Illinois, by building a barrier around the great lakes of Huron, Ontario, Erie and Superior being that Michigan is already barricaded. This barrier has proven to be effective; it has prevented 100% of carp trying to enter Lake Michigan.

Resolved; that routine checks for ballast water discharge in the Great Lakes are done on a more routine basis.

Resolved; that ships must dump their ballast water in either the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean to prevent the water and its specimens from traveling to the

great lakes. Being that the oceans have a much greater area than the lakes they will be able to handle the introduction of the new species.

Resolved; in order to have access with to the Great Lakes one must have a permit and must comply with all routine checks.

Resolved; to increase funding in order to make technological and logistical improvements in order to make checks more routine and efficient.

Resolved; to increase non indigenous species educational programs and resources in order to increase awareness of the problem

Resolved; to increase awareness of invasive species by making invasive species recognition week more public and to increase fund raisers like bumper stickers to raise money to fight the problem.

Resolved; the Michigan Legislature shall assign an emergency task force, which will access the problem in all five great lakes thoroughly and propose solutions to the legislature

RESOLUTION: Increase the age of 2 wheel vehicle helmet use to a universal law that any rider must wear a helmet.

Created in the Crime, Social Justice and Civil Liberties area by Lauren Rich on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 10:09:51 EST

Whereas, research has shown that 2 wheel vehicle injuries have increased substantially because few states have universal helmet laws, and the Bike Helmet Safety Institute has studied injuries and stated that anywhere from 45-88% of all brain injuries can be prevented by the use of helmets, therefore the MSC believes that helmets should be mandatory to wear on all 2 wheel vehicles (bikes, motorcycles, mopeds, etc.)

Whereas, research in Florida has been done and after a Florida law was passed in 1996 enforcing helmets between the years of 1996 and 1997, the percentage of helmet users increased from 19% to 47%; a shockingly 28% increase within a year. In addition, the death rate in Florida decreased from 5 to 1 and the total numbers decreased from 325 to 105 people.

Whereas, in a recent bill that wants to repeal a 36-year-old mandatory motorcycle helmet law, Richard Miller, the manager of Community Safety Services for AAA Michigan, is outraged that the state of Michigan would take away the only form of safety for Motorcycle users.

Whereas, a 2004 Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning study has been done, and shown that if the helmet law is repealed, it will come at a big price to the state of Michigan which includes 22 additional fatalities, 132 more incapacitating injuries, 610 other injuries and \$140 million in added economic costs to Michigan citizens. Therefore, repealing a helmet law that is solely enforced for the riders' benefit would cost the state of Michigan a very high toll.

Whereas, in a study from the environmental working group between 1986 and 1995 the fatality rate was 3.7, ranking it 12th in the country.

Be it resolved that, legislatures make a universal law enforcing helmet use of all ages on all 2 wheel vehicles to provide for the safety of the citizens of the state of Michigan.

MSC 2006-2007

Be it resolved that, for motorcyclists and bicyclists, the penalty for not wearing a helmet at all times is \$50 dollars.

Be it resolved that, for motorcyclists, after being fined 3 times for not wearing a helmet, their license for their motorcycle vehicle be suspended for 6 months.

RESOLUTION: A Resolution to Increase Rape Education in High School and College

Created in the Employment, Education and Economic Development area by Rachel Antor on Friday, September 16, 2005 at 04:12:52 EST

WHEREAS, The MSC notes with concern that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted in her/his lifetime (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape); and

WHEREAS, Adolescent girls are at a greater risk for sexual assault than any other age group (Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence); and

WHEREAS, In one study over 50% of high school boys and 42% of high school girls believe that there are times when it is “acceptable for a male to hold a female down and physically force her to engage in intercourse” (Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence); and

WHEREAS, 31% of all victims develop Rape-Related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (RR-PTSD) sometime in their lifetimes. Based on U.S. Census reports on the number of women in the United States, 1.3 million women currently have RR-PTSD, 3.8 million women have previously had RR-PTSD and roughly 211,000 women will develop RR-PTSD each year; and

WHEREAS, When compared with non-victims, rape victims have been found to be 8.7 times more likely to attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, Well over half of Rape Survivors (64%) did not report the crime to the police (<http://www.aardvarc.org/rape/about/stats.shtml>); and

WHEREAS, The MSC recognizes that education on rape for High School and College-age students has not been proven to decrease the instances of rape (<http://www.urbanedjournal.org/notes/notes0007.html>), but it is beneficial as a way for victims and students to come forward, deal with, and recognize the issues surrounding rape; and

WHEREAS, better education on the topic of rape will broaden a student's knowledge of where to go to for help and could potentially increase the

percentage of survivors that report their rape, and decrease the percentage of survivors that suffer long-term and alone; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, All high school students should be better educated on the issues surrounding rape through a section in a class which is required for graduation or various information sessions/speakers at school assemblies; and

RESOLVED, in which students are exposed to people that tell their stories, statistics, knowledge about drugs used, and what they can do to recognize the signs, help a friend, or know who they can go to if it happens to them; and

RESOLVED, this mandatory session should happen in high school, in addition to or in conjunction with other mandatory health education materials presented; and

RESOLVED, it be strongly recommended that all incoming college students have to be educated as part of their orientation and would listen to speakers, given informational sheets, and told of helplines/places to go if they ever need them; and

RESOLVED, As a follow up to the mandatory informational session at orientations, dorms should have speakers/sessions in which interested students could come and get further involved, or to listen and learn.

RESOLUTION: Re-Organizing School District Budgets

Created in the Employment, Education and Economic Development area by Michelle Boyd on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 10:29:30 EST

WHEREAS: The Michigan law states that each school district must have 2 budgets, an operating budget and a capital budget.

WHEREAS: The money for the operating budget is provided from the state budget. Each school district gets a certain amount of money per student enrolled each year for this budget and they are prohibited from getting money from any other source. The money must be used for such things as employee salaries, new roofing, electricity, and all other costs that are necessary to operating a school.

WHEREAS: In 1993, a school district's operating funding came from the local government, but in 1994, the state took over this task. The amount of money the school gets per student is based off this original funding amount from their local government, with the amount changing every few years due to inflation. Some of the poorer school districts, like Pontiac, had their funding increased during this change, but not enough to keep them up to par with suburban schools.

WHEREAS: The money for the capital budget is provided by the city's taxpayers, donations and bonds . This money is used for such things as electronics, additions and renovations.

WHEREAS: School Districts sell bonds to people in the community and businesses in and out of state to support their capital budget. West Bloomfield , among others, sells these bonds about every 4 years, the latest being 2004. During this bond issue, West Bloomfield sold all \$23 million in bonds in one day.

WHEREAS: Michigan state law prohibits schools from transferring any money or tasks from one budget to the other. This law was put into place mainly so that taxpayers would know where their money was being spent.

WHEREAS: Most schools greatly lack funding in their operating budget and have a surplus in their capital budget. For example, West Bloomfield school district is being forced to lay off teachers, cut the janitorial staff and create larger classes because of their lack of money in their operating budget, yet they just built a new hardly-used hallway and purchased 104 new T.V.s with stands and D.V.D. players with the money from their capital budget provided by the bonds.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the current law be changed to allow school districts to receive donations and to sell bonds to people and businesses under their operating budget with the same regulations they have under their capital budget. And that the two funds still remain completely separate.

RESOLUTION: A Resolution to Increase Minimum Wage.

Created in the Poverty and Urban Development area by Chris Hotz on Sunday, September 11, 2005 at 11:01:26 EST

The current minimum wage in Michigan is \$5.15. Some students, especially in Detroit, must support entire families on minimum wage.

WHEREAS students work on minimum wage, and some need to support families, for various reasons; and

WHEREAS \$5.15 is not enough to support a family while gas, food, and heating prices increase due to Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS average heating costs rose to about \$8.47 per week in 2004 and are on the rise again, credit earned for even the lowest heating expenses (\$500 and lower) average into about \$196, which is almost 58.3% of the expenses (essentially, a \$500 annual heating cost bill will be paid for by those credits, but \$304 will come from the owner's pocket), and even the most ideal house conditions in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Houghton are higher than \$550; and

WHEREAS gas prices are approximately \$3.00 , if not \$4.00 dollars per gallon, while most cars go through nearly 750 gallons per year, which comes out to approximately \$2250 per year; and

WHEREAS the agriculture and seafood industry suffered from Hurricane Katrina, which will raise price significantly, while approximately \$50 today will feed a family of four for one day; and

WHEREAS rent for a small apartment in Detroit is currently approximately \$500 per month; and

WHEREAS the approximate yearly cost of living, disregarding taxes, in the worst conditions, comes out to \$8,858.47; and

WHEREAS a student working on \$5.15 per hour for about 3 hours per day, for 365 days, equals approximately \$5,745, which is not enough money to supply a family of four, or even three; and

WHEREAS a student working on \$7.55 per hour for 3 hours per day, for 365 days, equals approximately \$8267.25, which could supply a family for at least half a year, disregarding government welfare, food stamps, shelters, etc.; and

WHEREAS students using this money to pay for necessities will put more money into the economy; and

WHEREAS Washington has the highest minimum wage rate of 7.35 in the country, while Michigan has a higher population by almost double; and

WHEREAS California has a minimum wage ordinance that states "The minimum wage requirement applies to employees who work two (2) or more hours per week. The requirement did not apply to small businesses with fewer than ten (10) persons who perform work for compensation (including temporary and part-time employees) or nonprofit until January 1, 2005."
THEREFORE, BE IT.

RESOLVED that the Michigan Representatives within the House of Representatives will create an ordinance that will supply impoverished workers with a minimum wage of \$7.55 if the worker meets the specified requirements of: being the only worker in a family of four, being in a situation that relies on government help, works three or more hours per day, and being of twenty-one years of age; and

RESOLVED that this ordinance will be enacted in January 2007, and will increase by \$.20 each month for seven months, so as to bypass the current inflation economy status; and

RESOLVED that the ordinance will be for companies, businesses and groups that have a net profit rate of \$50000 per month; and

RESOLVED that the ordinance price will be set to \$7.55; and

RESOLVED that businesses hiring people that meet the ordinance requirements will be applicable for a tax cut under Good Samaritan status; and

RESOLVED that the money left from the tax cut will not only pay for the new wages, but they will provide profit for the organization on a whole; and

MSC 2006-2007

RESOLVED that the tax cut will amount to half of the total wages paid to such workers; and THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN

that, the MSC strongly recommends the community to help those in need, and vote for this resolution.

**RESOLUTION: Campaign for Child Safety Against Sexual Predators -
by Krystle Etri and Emily Feld**

*Created in the Crime, Social Justice and Civil Liberties area by Krystle on
Sunday, November 06, 2005 at 07:26:33 EST*

Whereas statistics prove that the vast majority of criminals who sexually assault children can never be cured and are very likely to repeat their crimes; and

Whereas more than two-thirds of the victims of rape and sexual assault are under the age of 18; and

Whereas Sex offenders have a dramatically higher recidivism rate for their crimes than any other type of violent felon; and

Whereas there have been cases all across America in which girls and boys have been raped, abused, and even murdered by serial sex offenders who had been released by authorities after serving short prison sentences; and

Whereas there are 400,000 registered sex offenders in the United States, and an estimated 80 to 100,000 of them are missing; and

Whereas 'Jessica's Law' or equivalents have been passed in Florida, Arizona and Louisiana (<http://www.jessicaslaw2006.com/>); and

Whereas Jessica's Law states that all child molesters who molest children under the age of 14 are put into a prison with a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 or 25 years to life. It eliminates all "good-time" credits for sex offenders ensuring that these sex offenders are required to serve their entire sentence and will not be released for good behavior. Sex offenders will be electronically monitor convicted sex offenders for life, if they are ever released from prison, through GPS tracking; and

Whereas current law allows sex offenders to reduce their prison terms through the use of "good time credits"; and

Whereas the recommended sentence range for first offenders charged with second-degree murder in Michigan is 8 to 25 years (<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/sentencing-guidelines/sg.htm>)

THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved; The state of Michigan enacts a version of 'Jessica's Law' which mandates a minimum sentence of 25 years and a maximum of life in prison for first-time child sex offenders, and;

Resolved; Paroled sex offenders are required to wear a GPS positioning unit for life so police can keep track of them at all times, and;

Resolved; Through GPS tracking, an electronic zone will be created around schools, daycare centers and parks, preventing sex offenders from living and going near places where children reside, and;

Resolved; Requires offenders to pay for their own GPS equipment, if they are financially able, and;

Resolved; a convicted child sex offender will have to register prior to release from prison, and;

Resolved; there will be a penalty of \$100,000 and potential jail time for sex offenders who fail to register.

RESOLUTION: Banning Smoking in Bars and Restuarants

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Elyse Fleischman on Thursday, December 01, 2005 at 01:08:54 EST

Today, as we become more scientifically aware of the traumatic effects of Second Hand Smoke, it is undeniable that it is a major threat to our lives. Michigan trails behind thirteen states that have already opted to save lives and make their air smoke free. Michigan is also failing to prevent smoking by propagating money awarded from the tobacco industry towards causes it was not intended for. We must take action against second hand smoke and the deaths that result from it.

Whereas the Michigan Youth Caucus believes that all restaurants and bars in Michigan should be completely smoke free to protect the 79.3% of residents who do not smoke from the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

Whereas 2,500 Michigan residents die as a result of second hand smoke and 14,700 die due to their own smoking habits. Exposure to second hand smoke is the second leading cause of preventable death in Michigan.

Whereas second hand smoke or Environment Tobacco Smoke is a combination of exhaled mainstream smoke and smoke directly from the burning tobacco, the levels of carcinogens in second hand smoke far surpass the levels being inhaled by the smoker. Individuals exposed to secondhand smoke run at least an 80% greater stroke risk than non-exposed individuals.

Whereas about 70% to 80 % of second hand smoke is emitted from the cigarette itself and contains substantially high levels of nicotine, carbon monoxide, and tar. Being exposed to secondhand smoke is even more harmful than smoking a cigarette for an equal amount of time.

Whereas the US Environmental Protection Agency has classified Environment Tobacco Smoke as a class A carcinogen. This is a substance known to cause cancer in humans for which there is no safe level of exposure. Other Class A carcinogens includes arsenic, asbestos, benzene, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide.

Whereas second hand smoke causes cardiovascular disease and various cancers such as lung and sinus. The EPA estimates that secondhand smoke

causes approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths and 35,000 heart disease deaths in nonsmokers each year.

Whereas the immediate effects of Environment Tobacco Smoke include eye irritation, cough sore throat, headache, nausea and dizziness.

Whereas according to a University of California study, waitresses who worked in smoky restaurants were four times as likely to develop lung cancer and three times as likely to develop cardiovascular disease, compared to women in other fields. Bartenders rank fifth for the highest lung cancer mortality rates due to toxic exposures on the job. Due mostly to second hand smoke, food service employees are fifty percent more likely to develop lung cancer.

Whereas smokers on average, miss 6.16 days of work per year due to sickness including smoking related conditions compared to nonsmokers, who miss 3.86 days of work per year. Businesses pay an average of \$2,189 in compensation costs for employees who are smokers compared to \$176 for nonsmokers.

Whereas Michigan spends \$2.65 billion annually on health care costs caused by smoking; \$881 million is covered by the government. Smoking-caused productivity losses total \$3.4 billion in Michigan.

Whereas Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, and Texas have all passed smoke free with astounding success and support from their citizens.

Whereas many business owners may be worried about a decrease in sales. Environmental Protection Agency estimates the savings from banning smoking to be between \$35 and \$66 billion a year. They also found that businesses would save, in operating and maintenance costs, between \$4 and \$8 billion.

Whereas restaurants in smoke free cities have on average, a 16% higher market value at resale than restaurants located in smoke-filled cities. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated that construction and maintenance costs are 7% higher in buildings that allow smoking than in buildings that are smoke free. In a national Zagat Survey of

more than 110,000 restaurant patrons, 4 out of 5 said that all restaurants should be smoke free and 32% would go out to eat more often if restaurants were smoke free.

Whereas no research has found a correlation between a loss in profits in the bar industry to smoking bans. In New York City tax receipts increased by \$1.4 million and in they remained unchanged. Alcohol sales were also not impacted by these laws.

Whereas unemployment also did not decrease due to smoking bans, but rather in New York increased by 10, 600 jobs in bars and restaurants in less than a year.

Whereas the number of bars in the state of New York increased by 3.5%, from April 2002 to May 2004, with tax receipts up 12%. The Department of Finance released a statement showing a \$1.2 million dollar increase in paid taxes from bars and restaurants from April through September of 2003 and. In addition, a 2003 New York City Department of Health found a gain of 10,000 jobs since the implementation of the smoke free air act.

Whereas the California Board of Equalization reports that the number of employees in California bars and restaurants increased by about 200,500 individuals from 1995, before the smoke free policy took effect.

Whereas a study released in June 2004 by the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, found that restaurant sales were up seven percent only one year after the state's smoke free law was implemented.

Whereas more than 3,600 restaurants in Michigan have voluntarily become smoke-free.

Whereas only 10 counties in Michigan have adopted bans on smoking in public places; all exempt bars and restaurants. In Metro Detroit, Wayne County, and the city of Detroit have a ban on smoking in the workplace, but both exempt bars, restaurants and casinos.

Whereas sixty-three percent of voters support a smoking ban in workplaces including restaurants and bars, while only twenty-three percent oppose it.

Whereas Michigan's courts will not allow local units of government to impose more stringent standards than those of the state. This is in comparison to other parts of the country where local governments can adopt their own ban on smoking in bars and restaurants.

Whereas becoming smoke free you may decrease the amount of cleanup due to burn holes and cigarette butts, as well as protect employees who are sensitive to smoking from illness. For restaurant purposes, owners may experience a decrease in complaints from non-smoking customers.

Be it resolved that all bars and restaurants in Michigan become smoke free. This will include any location that has a bar or restaurant in it, such as a bowling alley. Restaurants and bars will be allowed to have an outdoor smoking section if desired.

Be it resolved those who violate this law will be fined \$100. Since police officers are not always present in such areas, restaurant and bar employees must record all of the violator's information. Violators also must be given a slip, similar to that of a parking violation, providing the date, time, and penalty for committing the crime.

Be it resolved that restaurants who do not comply with the law will be fined \$5,000.

RESOLUTION: Increase in Michigan's Medicaid Budget to Assist Low Income Families In Affording Asthma Medication

Created in the Health Care, Housing, and the Family area by Elyssa Guslits on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 07:23:04 EST

Whereas according to the Center for Disease Control, nearly 870,000 people in Michigan have asthma equating to 9 percent of the population. Michigan ranks fourth in the nation in the prevalence of asthma. Nearly half the cases are in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Detroit and Grand Rapids among the top 20 "asthma capitals" in the country.

Whereas limited Medicaid budgets make it very difficult for low income residents to obtain the level of care they need.

Whereas low income inhabitants of Michigan can not afford the annual \$6000 fee for asthmatic treatments or asthmatic remedies such as a hypoallergenic mattress or pillows

Whereas about 35 of every 10,000 low-income asthmatics are hospitalized each year, compared with 13.8 middle-income asthmatics and 8.6 higher-income asthmatics

Whereas state health department show that only 9 percent of asthmatics in Michigan have a plan for managing their asthma from their doctor or other health care provider.

Whereas 78 percent of asthmatics visit their doctor once or not at all each year. The minimum national standard for monitoring asthma is two doctor's visits per year.

Whereas most, if not all, of the 150 to 200 asthma deaths in Michigan per year are avoidable in addition to emergency room visits and hospital admissions that add to the state's health care costs.

Whereas Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties are under orders by the EPA to cut ozone-causing pollution because they fail to meet federal standards for reducing health risks from smog, a leading aggravator for asthmatics.

Whereas The EPA has ordered the state to develop a plan by 2007 to reduce ozone levels by 2010, and a plans to reduce soot, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide that aggravate asthma.

Whereas Asthma costs the state \$460 million per year, \$270 million in direct health care costs and \$190 million in indirect costs. The state Department of Community Health reports that Adults miss an average of 10.1 workdays per year because of the disease, and asthma is the leading cause of preventable absences in schools. Asthma is also costing the state millions in expensive emergency room visits.

Whereas in 2004 Congress appropriated \$10 billion nationally with hopes of addressing rising Medicaid costs. The 2005 budget does not provide this aid again.

Whereas Medicaid provides health care coverage and long-term care to more than 50 million low-income families who could not afford to purchase health care on their own, paying for nearly one-fifth of all hospital care and all prescription drugs.

Be It Resolved that Michigan provide \$80 million budget dollars to Medicaid relief to cover a large portion of the loss of the Federal payment in order to benefit low income families inflicted with Asthma.

Be It Resolved that patients, and health plan companies gain the right to petition the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to convert certain drugs such as inhaled steroids, as determined by congress that are unaffordable but in high necessity, from prescription to over the counter drugs.

Be It Resolved that all asthma emergency room visits be required a record so more effective asthma management programs can be developed and such research can reduce the severity of asthmatic effects on Michigan residents.

RESOLUTION: Deer-Car Accidents and Prevention

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Chris Hartemayer on Friday, November 11, 2005 at 01:35:04 EST

WHEREAS : Deer – Car Accidents is a \$125 million problem in the State of Michigan, ranking Michigan as the second worst state for Deer – Car accidents in the USA.

WHEREAS : The Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC) was founded in 1996 and has been working to prevent accidents. Michigan had 62,707 crashes in 2004 compared to 66,993 in 2001.

WHEREAS : There were 3 deaths and 1,647 injuries in 2004 compared to 11 deaths and a similar number of injured in 2001. This follows a run-up in accidents from 1996-2001.

WHEREAS : The MDCC is sponsored by SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) and funded by AAA Michigan.

WHEREAS : If the MDCC was state sponsored it would be subject to information economies of scale by having increased access to state wide crash statistics from both local and state law enforcement agencies and insurers. Currently the MDCC is solely an information coalition and does not engage in any action based preventative measures.

WHEREAS : The preventative measures that are most effective are Deer Sirens (high pitched audio devices attached to cars to deter deer and make deer aware of the presence of moving vehicles), signage on the road around the most dangerous roadways, and educational programs (The MDCC is currently involved in this by sending its educational videos to ALL drivers education classes in the state).

WHEREAS : The cost of preventative measures is minimal compared to the annual cost to the state and insurers (\$125 million), the average cost per accident in auto repairs (\$2,800), and the injuries and loss of lives.

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED THAT : The state of Michigan adopt the MDCC as a statewide program and allow increased access to statewide data on accidents and high accident areas.

RESOLVED THAT : Those drivers in the state of Michigan who are up for license renewal be issued a copy of “Stay Clear of Deer All Year” the MDCC educational video that educates on how to avoid and deal with a Car – Deer Accident.

RESOLVED THAT : The state assist the AAA of Michigan in funding and instituting the following preventative measures:

- Deer Sirens placed on all emergency vehicles (Ambulances, Police Cruisers, Fire Trucks)
- Deer Danger signs be placed on roads with over 1000 annual accidents within a 5 mile stretch.
- The MDCC continue to educate all new driver education classes.

RESOLUTION: Needle Exchange Programs By Jeff Malach, Mark Robbins, Daniel Kirsch, and Danny Matz

Created in the Health Care, Housing, and the Family area by Jeff Malach on Sunday, December 04, 2005 at 09:51:17 EST

Whereas people who inject drugs are endangering their own lives. By contracting HIV or hepatitis, their needle-sharing partners, sexual partners and offspring may become infected.

Whereas it is estimated that half of all new HIV infections in the US are occurring among injection drug users. For women, 61% of all AIDS cases are due to injection drug use or sex with partners who inject drugs. Injection drug use is the source of infection for more than half of all children born with HIV.

Whereas needle exchange programs (NEPs) distribute clean needles and safely dispose of used ones for IDUs, and also generally offer a variety of related services, including referrals to drug treatment and HIV counseling and testing.

Whereas there are currently 113 Needle Exchange Programs in the US. In Hawaii, the NEP is funded by the state Department of Health. In addition to needle exchange, the program offers a centralized drug treatment referral system and a methadone clinic, as well as a peer-education program to reach IDUs who do not come to the exchange.

Whereas harm Reduction Central in Hollywood, CA, is a storefront NEP that targets young IDUs aged 24 and under. The program provides needle exchange, arts programming, peer-support groups, HIV testing and case management and is the largest youth NEP in the US. Over 70% of clients reported no needle-sharing in the last 30 days, and young people who used the NEP on a regular basis were more likely not to share needles.

Whereas a study of 81 cities around the world compared HIV infection rates among IDUs in cities that had NEPs with cities that did not have NEPs. In the 52 cities without NEPs, HIV infection rates increased by 5.9% per year on average. In the 29 cities with NEPs, HIV infection rates decreased by 5.8% per year. The study concluded that NEPs appear to lead to lower levels of HIV infection among IDUs.

Whereas HARC is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 by a group of volunteers to provide HIV/AIDS related services to the people of Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, and Washtenaw Counties

Whereas HARC began its Needle Exchange Program in December of 2000. The Needle Exchange Program is located in unmarked vans. Three days every week the van will park in a designated location to provide easy access to IDUs.

Therefore be it resolved that Needle Exchange Programs have proven to be effective and cost-effective.

Be it resolved the state of Michigan should provide more funding to programs like HARC to increase Needle Exchange Programs across the state.

RESOLUTION: Decreasing Dead Zones in Michigan

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Elyse Fleischman on Wednesday, November 09, 2005 at 09:16:16 EST

The increase in nitrogen in Michigan waterways is causing an increase in dead zones. Dead zones are low oxygen regions in water, which are decreasing the biodiversity in our waterways. Since Michigan is home to 36,000 miles of streams and rivers, 11, 000 inland lakes, and the Great Lakes, it is crucial that we begin solving the nitrogen problem now, before they become too polluted.

WHEREAS dead zones seem to be the result of excess nitrogen in water. The largest cause of dead zones is over fertilization.

WHEREAS farmers use fertilizers containing nitrogen, because this facilitates plant growth, but often times they overfertilize their land. Plants can only use a small portion of nitrogen, so the excess eventually enters the nearest body of water.

WHEREAS Michigan produces the most tart cherries, blueberries, cranberries, and black beans than any other state in the country. It is also a large producer of soybeans and corn. Therefore, many farmers are using fertilizers and may be over fertilizing their crops in order to keep up these reputations.

WHEREAS almost two million residents fish Michigan waters annually, contributing to \$4.3 billion to Michigan's economy.

WHEREAS dead zones decrease the biodiversity in these waterways because many animals such as bottom dwellers and crustaceans cannot survive in these areas.

BE IT RESOLVED the Michigan government should place a limit on the amount of fertilizer farmers can use. The amount of fertilizer allocated to each farmer will depend on the size of their land. This will be monitored through records kept by stores who are permitted to sell such fertilizers. Farmers will not be allowed to buy more than a certain amount of fertilizer and their purchasing practices will be kept in an online database, so they cannot violate the law.

MSC 2006-2007

BE IT RESOLVED Congress should make fertilizers with large amounts of nitrogen illegal.

RESOLUTION: Preventing Childhood Obesity by Chris Gruerro Mark Robbins Brett Weinberg

Created in the Health Care, Housing, and the Family area by Elyssa Guslits on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 09:55:09 EST

Whereas Obesity means having too much body fat. A child is obese if their weight is more than 20% higher than the ideal weight for a boy or girl of their age and height.

Whereas One out of 4 children who are obese at age 6 will be obese as an adult.

Whereas Three out of 4 children who are obese at age 12 will be obese as an adult.

Whereas There are serious problems that can come from being obese as a child, including:

Poor self-esteem, Depression, Hip problems, and other bone problems, Liver problems, Early puberty, childhood diabetes, Sleep apnea and breathing problems, Adult health problems like high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes

Whereas Nationwide, 16 percent of young people are considered overweight a percentage that has tripled since 1980, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Whereas 24% of Michigan high-school students are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight. In the past decade, the has seen a 60% increase in adult obesity, with almost two-thirds of adults being overweight; while over the last 20 years the number of overweight children and adolescents has doubled and tripled respectively.

Whereas The problem is particularly acute in Michigan , which has been one of the ten heaviest states for the past 14 years (61% of adults and 11% of children are overweight), and currently ranks among the top four states in the prevalence of unhealthy weight. “The average 12-year-old is 11 pounds heavier than two decades ago,” says MSU pediatric cardiologist Monica Goble.

Whereas Physical activity levels of Michigan students rapidly decline between grades 9 and 12; 37% of students watch TV for at least three hours on an average school night.

Whereas Balanced diets with moderate caloric restriction, especially reduced dietary fat, have been used successfully in treating obesity

Whereas Type 2 diabetes closely linked to overweight and obesity, has increased dramatically in our young population.

Therefore; Be It Resolved The state of Michigan abandons the USDA food regulations and creates their own guidelines that are stricter for schools to follow. This will create an initiative to serve healthier food in schools and make children more conscious of what they eat.

Be It Resolved Because of the high levels of obesity in the state of Michigan , cafeterias in schools K through 12 should offer healthy foods with higher nutritional value. This will help children begin to balance their diet and focus on eating healthier. Also the cafeterias should provide the nutritional values of its foods to not just the students but the parents of the students.

Be It Resolved Schools should teach nutritional education so that children understand the importance of eating healthy.

Be It Resolved After school programs should become more commonplace among children because low levels of activity can lead to an increased risk of heart disease and other diseases such as Type 2 diabetes. Exercise and athletic activity will help prevent childhood obesity.

RESOLUTION: Jessica's Law Against Sexual Assault of Children

Created in the Crime, Social Justice and Civil Liberties area by Zack Zucker on Monday, February 06, 2006 at 09:40:56 EST

Whereas: The sexual assault of children is a permanently damaging abuse to the children.

Whereas: The sexual assault of children is a heinous crime that scars the child for life and is inexcusable in any just society.

Whereas: Sexual assault in this case is defined as non-consensual sexual activity including vaginal-anal-oral penetration, rape, attempted rape, and molestation.

Whereas: "Several studies support the hypothesis that sexual offense recidivism rates are underreported. Marshall and Barbaree (1990) compared official records of a sample of sex offenders with "unofficial" sources of data. They found that the number of subsequent sex offenses revealed through unofficial sources was 2.4 times higher than the number that was recorded in official reports. In addition, research using information generated through polygraph examinations on a sample of imprisoned sex offenders with fewer than two known victims (on average), found that these offenders actually had an average of 110 victims and 318 offenses (Ahlmeyer, Heil, McKee, and English, 2000). Another polygraph study found a sample of imprisoned sex offenders to have extensive criminal histories, committing sex crimes for an average of 16 years before being caught (Ahlmeyer, English, and Simons, 1999)."
<http://www.csom.org/pubs/recidsexof.html>

Whereas: Lenient sentences on sexual offenders of children leads to many repeats of the crimes committed and the abuse and/or deaths of many more children.

<http://www.billoreilly.com/outragefunnels>

Whereas: "Sex offenders have very high recidivism rates. According to a 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Justice, sex offenders are the least likely to be cured and the most likely to re-offend, and they prey on the most innocent members of our society. More than two-thirds of the victims of

<http://www.michiganstudentcaucus.org>
Faculty contact: Gary Weisserman (gweiss@umich.edu)

MSC 2006-2007

rape and sexual assault are under the age of 18. Sex offenders have a dramatically higher recidivism rate for their crimes than any other type of violent felon.” <http://www.jessicaslaw2006.com/language/>

Whereas: 52% of Child Molesters and 39% of rapists are rearrested for the same crime.

http://www.sexoffender.com/sorecidivism_review.html

Whereas: Sexual abuse of children under the age of 12 can cause mental illnesses such as post traumatic stress disorder, behavioral changes, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders; substance abuse; problems with sexual adjustment in adult life; problems with relationships and intimacy; lower self esteem; emotional issues; and suicide. Many sexual abusers murder the children after committing the crime.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/issues9.html#sex>

Whereas: Jessica’s Law is a law which was passed in Florida, named after a nine year old girl who was brutally sexually attacked and murdered by a repeat sexual offender. He was out of prison due to a weak sentence.

Whereas: Jessica’s Law mandates a minimum sentence of 25 years, and a maximum of life in prison for first-time sexual offenders whose victims were under the age of 12.

http://www.flsenate.gov/session/index.cfm?BI_Mode=ViewBillInfo&Mode=Bills&SubMenu=1&Year=2005&billnum=1877

Whereas: Jessica’s Law goes into effect for adults sexually abusing children under the age of 12.

Whereas: The states of Florida, Arizona, and Louisiana have already enacted Jessica’s Law or the equivalent.

Whereas: The states of Alabama, California, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin have already begun taking steps to implement Jessica’s Law.

<http://www.michiganstudentcaucus.org>
Faculty contact: Gary Weisserman (gweiss@umich.edu)

Whereas: West Bloomfield's own State Representative and Michigan Student Caucus member Rep. David Law has already gotten Michigan on the right track by proposing a bill to further monitor convicted sexual predators of children through real-time GPS tracking. They are already required to wear an electronic ankle bracelet for life if the victim was under the age of 12.

Whereas: Jessica's Law saves innocent children's lives.

Be it Resolved that the Michigan State Legislature Pass a Bill Enacting Jessica's Law in Michigan and expanding it to protect all children under the age of 16.

RESOLUTION: Foster Care Reform for Michigan's Children

Created in the Health Care, Housing, and the Family area by Ernst on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at 01:06:13 EST

WHEREAS there are over 17,000 children in Michigan 's foster care system;

WHEREAS about 50 % of homeless and prison populations nationwide are from the foster care system;

WHEREAS Michigan has the 4th highest child case loads per social worker, with an average of 307 children to every social worker. The GAO (the United States Government Accountability Office) only recommends 75:1;

WHEREAS under current Michigan state law all foster care providers must have a thorough criminal background check, each home must have a minimum number of required visits, and each child must have a service plan within 30 days of initial placement with updates every 90 days and established health and dental care.

WHEREAS the recent audit of Michigan's Foster Care system uncovered 321 foster care providers and 32 other household members who had been convicted of crimes like sexual and domestic abuse in the last five years;

WHEREAS approximately 75% of relative foster care providers in Michigan were not documented as having had a criminal background check.

WHEREAS over 1/3 of the required visits to the foster care homes in Michigan did not occur or were not documented, and over 60% of the required caseworker visits to the foster care homes did not occur or was not documented;

WHEREAS 73% of all service plans were not completed within 30 days of the child's initial placement in Michigan;

WHEREAS in 40% of all cases updated case plans in Michigan were not completely within 90 days.

WHEREAS over 1/3 of all foster care children in Michigan did not have a documented health examination.

WHEREAS almost 50% of all foster care children in Michigan were not documented as having received a documented dental examination.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT social workers in Michigan are limited to having only up to 200 foster care cases, and steadily decrease the cap amount by 25 cases per year over the next five years.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a statewide audit on the DHS would be conducted once every two years for the next ten years to ensure that adequate medical care, dental care, case visits, and case plans are documented for every foster care child in Michigan.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT funding for biyearly audits and increase in DHS staff in Michigan will be funded by applying for more federal grants like IV-E and IV-B.

RESOLUTION: Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in Michigan by Jaymie Presberg

Created in the Health Care, Housing, and the Family area by Jaymie Presberg on Saturday, February 18, 2006 at 07:16:39 EST

Whereas; Naturopathic Medicine is founded upon a holistic philosophy, naturopathic medicine combines safe and effective traditional therapies with the most current advances in modern medicine. Naturopathic medicine is appropriate for the management of a broad range of health conditions affecting all people of all ages.

Whereas; Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are trained as general practitioners who specialize in natural therapies.

Whereas; A Naturopathic Doctor is educated in all of the same basic sciences as an M.D. but also studies holistic and nontoxic approaches to therapy with a strong emphasis on disease prevention and optimizing wellness. In addition to a standard medical curriculum, the naturopathic physician is required to complete four years of training in clinical nutrition, acupuncture, homeopathic medicine, botanical medicine, psychology, and counseling (to encourage people to make lifestyle changes in support of their personal health).

Whereas; A naturopathic physician takes rigorous professional board exams so that he or she may be licensed by a state or jurisdiction as a primary care general practice physician. They are also required to take ongoing continuing education to maintain their license.

Whereas; Certification (versus licensure) does not carry with it the scrutiny of a licensing board nor regulation of any sort, nor does it carry the weight of law, should the need arise.

Whereas; Licensure will protect the public by creating an infrastructure of accountability by law, benefiting the people by defining educational requirements including clinical training and understanding of when it is appropriate to refer for further care. Licensing naturopathic doctors will provide proper oversight of the profession by a regulatory board.

Whereas; Fourteen states, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington license Naturopathic Doctors. Efforts are underway in at least 9 other states to license naturopathic doctors.

Whereas; The training includes extensive experience seeing patients in an out-patient clinic while supervised by licensed doctors. This training prepares naturopathic doctors to know when to refer to other practitioners when appropriate.

Whereas; Naturopathic doctors are recognized community resources for medical information regarding drug, nutrient, herb and supplement interactions. Licensure will allow access to this valuable service.

Whereas; This bill will provide title clarification by requiring the title “Naturopathic Doctor” applies only to those professionals who complete the training described above and who have passed national board exams.

Whereas; Many people have a strong interest in this type of medicine and deserve to have access to the services provided by well trained N.D.’s

Therefore, be it

Resolved that; The state of Michigan enacts licensing laws for Naturopathic Physicians.

Resolved that; To be licensed as an N.D., the applicant must be a graduate of an accredited naturopathic medical school, in which the medical education will be a four-year post graduate level program that is equivalent of four, 36 week academic years.

Resolved that; Naturopathic Physicians are trained in basic medical science and conventional diagnostics, and are qualified through licensing to scientifically apply natural therapeutics in the treatment of disease and restoration of health.

Resolved that; Licensed naturopathic physicians must fulfill state-mandated continuing education requirements annually, and will have a specific scope of practice defined by their state's law.

MSC 2006-2007

Resolved that; Having naturopathic physicians receive licenses, people's insurance policies can now recognize the ND's as general practioners and allow their patients to see these doctors with insurance coverage.

RESOLUTION: Academic Eligibility Requirements for High School Student-Athletes

Created in the Employment, Education and Economic Development area by Jacob Carpenter on Wednesday, February 08, 2006 at 10:34:22 EST

WHEREAS As it applies to academic eligibility requirements for Michigan high school student-athletes, the Michigan High School Athletics Association states: “The MHSAA sets a minimum standard for academic eligibility which many schools adjust upward. The minimum is that a student must have passed at least 20 credit hours (generally 4 classes) in the previous semester and be passing the same number in the current semester, whenever a school does regular academic eligibility checks (at least once in a 10-week period).”; and

WHEREAS Academic requirements vary from Michigan high schools based on each school’s individual standards, but the only requirements from the state are passing 20 credit hours in the previous and current semester during regular academic checks; and

WHEREAS The National Collegiate Athletic Association estimates the probability of senior high school athletes continuing their athletic careers into NCAA member collegiate institutions as follows: Men’s basketball – 2.9% Women’s basketball – 3.1% Football – 5.8% Baseball – 5.6% Men’s hockey – 12.9% Men’s soccer – 5.7%; and

WHEREAS The National Collegiate Athletic Association estimates the probability of senior high school athletes continuing their athletic careers into professional athletics as follows: 0.03% will eventually be drafted by an NBA team, 0.02% will eventually be drafted by a WNBA team, 0.09% will eventually be drafted by an NFL team, 0.5% will eventually be drafted by an MLB team, 0.4% will eventually be drafted by an NHL, 0.08% will eventually be drafted by an MLS team; and

WHEREAS Nationwide, 32% of high school seniors did not graduate in 2001; and

WHEREAS In a 2001 study regarding high school senior graduation rates in 1998, 25% of Michigan students did not graduate.

WHEREAS Higher academic standards required by the Michigan High School Athletics Association would provide greater incentive for high school student-athletes to complete their high school education; and

WHEREAS Though a small minority of high school athletes may continue their careers on collegiate and professional teams, athletes with unfulfilled dreams of furthering their careers will at least have a greater education than with the current system; and

WHEREAS By requiring more stringent academic requirements for high school student-athletes, a greater emphasis is placed on student academic education as opposed to student athletics; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the MHSAA be required to change its academic requirements for high school athletes to be eligible in high school athletics. The required change shall be that in order for student-athletes to be eligible, a student must have a current Grade Point Average of 2.0 or above and may only be failing one class. In the previous semester, a student must have a 2.0 for the entire semester and may have failed only one class.

RESOLVED, that high schools be required to administer academic eligibility checks every two weeks in which school is currently in session.

RESOLVED, that any student-athlete to be found academically ineligible as a result of biweekly checks shall be ineligible until academic standards are raised to a status of eligibility. Any student-athlete to be found academically ineligible as a result of semester checks shall be ineligible for the current semester.

RESOLUTION: Legalization of Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Ankit Bhutada on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 10:20:17 EST

Whereas State laws may restrict the use of embryonic stem cells from some or all sources or specifically permit certain activities. State laws on the issue vary widely. Approaches to stem cell research policy range from laws in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, which encourage embryonic stem cell research, including on cloned embryos, to South Dakota's law, which strictly forbids research on embryos regardless of the source. States that specifically permit embryonic stem cell research have established guidelines for scientists such as consent requirements and approval and review processes for projects.

Whereas In the status quo Michigan law prohibits both the research on live embryos and on cloned embryos both in the private and the public stature. Whereas Several states have authorized funding for stem cell research in 2004 and 2005. In early 2004 New Jersey became the first state to appropriate funds specifically for adult and embryonic stem cell research. State funding for adult stem cell research was already occurring in at least one state, Ohio. Over the last two years \$8.5 million and \$14.5 million in general revenues have been allocated to the New Jersey Stem Cell Institute, according to New Jersey's Commission on Science and Technology.

Whereas and legislators in Massachusetts enacted Senate Bill 2039, which became law after the legislature overrode the governor's veto. The measure creates a biomedical research advisory council, which will examine the appropriateness of public funding for research on stem cells from umbilical cord blood and assess the feasibility of establishing an institute for regenerative medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School
Whereas scientists believe using embryonic stem cell research is good because they think that through this research, they can cure diseases such as Parkinson

Whereas: Stem Cell research has been proven to find cure otherwise incurable diseases such as Parkinson's™s, Alzimers, Spinal Cord Diseases and Bone Dystrophy.

Whereas: Stem cells are cells that have the potential to develop into many different cell types in the body. They act as a repair system for the body. The

cells divide without limit for as long as the person is alive. When a stem cell divides, each "daughter" cell can either remain a stem cell or become another type of cell with a more specialized function. They can be a muscle cell, a red blood cell, or a brain cell.

Whereas: Scientists like to use embryo stem cells because they are fresh and easy to work with. They divide more easily. Stem cells can be found in umbilical cords and embryos. Research on these cells are said to potentially find cures for spinal cord injury, Parkinson's, and more. Whereas: In the status quo over 400,000 embryo stem cells exist, these stem cells are just sitting there an day by day are thrown out. Reports estimate in the next one to two years the 400,000 stem cells that exist in the status quo will be gone.

Whereas: Dr. Leonard Peikoff, professor of philosophy, writes, "A potential is not an actuality, and a fertilized ovum, an embryo, or a fetus is not a human being. Rights belong only to man - and men are entities, organisms that are biologically formed and physically separate from one another. That which lives within the body of another can claim no prerogatives against its host"

Whereas: In Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State speech last month, she said fewer restrictions on stem cell research could boost investment in life sciences and aid Michigan's economy. But several prominent Republicans are not supportive of the Meisner legislation, damaging its chances of passing.

Whereas: State law does not permit Michigan researchers to get embryos left over from fertility treatments in the state. Researchers say those embryos are often thrown away. However Michigan State Law does not prohibit the research of adult stem cells.

Be it Resolved that the Michigan legislature make the harvesting of new embryonic stem cells legal

Be it Resolved that funding would come from private companies and no funding would be necessary from the state

RESOLUTION: Redevelopment of Abandoned Properties in Michigan

Created in the Poverty and Urban Development area by Jenny Cao on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 08:40:58 EST

Whereas abandoned houses make certain Urban areas in Michigan unattractive to potential residents or business owners of surrounding areas.

Whereas abandoned houses attract crime, diminish property value, attract stray animals and diseases.

Whereas many landmarks of Detroit lay abandoned and waiting for redevelopment, including the Michigan Central Rail Depot, the Fort Shelby Hotel, the Lee Plaza Hotel, the National and Adams theaters, the Metropolitan Building, and the Grand Army of the Republic Building.
www.forgottendetroit.com

Whereas the push to demolish abandoned buildings by the time the Super Bowl came to Detroit has ended, and simply destroying the buildings does not attract any potential investors.

Whereas over the last four years, even with the Super Bowl demolition campaign, the rate at which abandoned buildings have been destroyed in Michigan, and Detroit in particular, has decreased.

Whereas over 10,000 people move out of Detroit each year.
<http://www.metrotimes.com/editorial/story.asp?id=7522>

Whereas there are 3,500 to 4,000 abandoned housing in Flint alone.
www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hff/pdf/HFF_v6i2.pdf

Whereas a tax credit would not cost the state of Michigan any current revenue, and would actually lead to an increase in revenue in the long run due to the property taxes paid each year by future owners.

Whereas a tax credit would encourage development of currently abandoned sites, restore vacant landmarks of Michigan's past, create new jobs, and boost the economy of the surrounding areas.

MSC 2006-2007

Be it Resolved that the State of Michigan provides financial incentives to promote the re-development of abandoned buildings in designated underdeveloped areas by enacting into law a tax credit of 125% of the cost of developers renovating or rebuilding the abandoned buildings

Be it Resolved that redistricting proposals would go through normal means, but the subsequent building in designated underdeveloped areas would be eligible for the 125% tax credit

RESOLUTION: Addressing the Nursing Shortage

Created in the Poverty and Urban Development area by Zack Zucker on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 12:56:25 EST

Whereas: The shortage of RNs in Michigan will total about 7,000 by 2010 and almost 18,000 by 2015

Whereas: Of all professional careers, nursing is expected to have the largest number of openings -- 110,000 nationwide -- by 2012.

Whereas: Michigan 's nursing schools graduated 3,951 students in 2002-03, down from 4,260 in 1997-98. This is despite the fact that an increase in the average life span has increased the demand for nurses.

Whereas: The shortage will get worse as nurses retire. Young nurses are increasingly rare. Only 9 percent of the nation's nurses were younger than 30 in 2000, compared with 26 percent in 1980. The average age of a registered nurse - about 38 in 1983 - is nearly 48 today.

Whereas: A nursing shortage threatens the well being of patients. Each additional patient in a nurse's workload translates to a 7 percent increase in the chances a patient will die within 30 days of admission to a hospital. About 29 percent of nurses reported a "potentially dangerous delay" in responding to change in patient symptoms.

Whereas: The shortage of nurses in Michigan has reached such a critical level that Michigan has begun importing nurses from Canada and the Philippines- jobs that could go to Michigan residents.

Whereas: Michigan 's future job market looks bleaker than ever with manufacturing jobs disappearing every day.

Whereas: Over 90% of nurses today are women. There are common stereotypes about male nurses that prevent men from wanting to enter the profession.

Whereas: Any financial incentive would increase the budget deficit of Michigan in the short run, but increase tax revenue in the long run by decreasing the unemployment rate, as well as saving lives.

Be it Resolved that an incentive should be given to high school and college students to persuade them to go to nursing school in the form of a partial scholarship given to nursing applicants for the next 8 years.

Be it Resolved that the state of Michigan should fund an advertising campaign urging males to become nurses with the intention of undoing any stereotypical notions that males might have about becoming nurses.

RESOLUTION: Equality in Education

Created in the Employment, Education and Economic Development area by Gomula on Sunday, March 19, 2006 at 07:24:04 EST

Whereas: Detroit Public Schools receives \$7,180 per pupil while Bloomfield Hills receives \$11,834 per pupil

Whereas: Children need a good education to succeed in the modern world.

Whereas: Proposal A no longer works for the changing needs of schools (Proposal A works on how much revenue per child the school district received before proposal A with no regards to how much it actually costs to educate a child. This causes schools in rich districts to get more money than those in poorer school districts. So schools that already have enough resources gain more while schools that can barely afford to turn on the heat get further behind.

Whereas: More equality in education would allow for less of the highly controversial affirmative actions programs

Whereas: Many school districts have had to eliminate transportation, cut programs, put off getting new text books and other supplies, and reduce staff causing class sizes to increase and making education less personal.

Whereas: Utilities and maintenance for buildings costs \$4.25 per square foot at a minimum

Be it resolved: A committee is created to assess the needs of each individual school district to find the schools in need of the most essential funding for things like books, utilities, staff, computers, supplies, etc.

Be it resolved: The \$12 million that Michigan schools receive is split based on need instead of based on what the district used to receive prior to and because of Proposal A.

Be it resolved: Donations, taxes, and grants will go to a state school fund and distributed based on need. All schools will receive enough to run their schools but more will go to schools with less technological advances and supplies.

MSC 2006-2007

RESOLUTION: Water Bottle Addition to Bottle Deposit Law

Created in the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology area by Zack Zucker on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 08:18:09 EST

Whereas: “Studies show that beverage container legislation has reduced total roadside litter by between 30% and 64% in the states with bottle bills. Beverage container litter was reduced by between 69% and 84%. Container Recycling Institute Links To Various Government Studies”

Whereas: “Studies also show that the recycling rate for beverage containers is vastly increased with a bottle bill. The US beverage container recycling rate was 39.4% in 2001. States with bottle bills recycle approximately 78% while states lacking bottle bill legislation only recycle approximately 23%.”

Whereas: Bottle Deposit Bills prevent waste, reduce litter, create jobs at recycling plants and through increased distribution, and provide financial incentive for recycling.

Whereas: “When some plastic bottles are incinerated along with other trash, as is the practice in many municipalities, toxic chlorine (and potentially dioxin) is released into the air while heavy metals deposit in the ash. If plastics are buried in landfills, not only do they take up valuable space, but potentially toxic additives such as phthalates may leak into the groundwater.”

Whereas: The four billion bottles and cans recycled each year under Michigan ’s Bottle Bill save energy and reduces air pollution.

Whereas: According to a survey by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, 73% of Michigianians support amending the bottle deposit law to include water bottles, juice, tea, and sport drinks.

Whereas: Currently, 95% of currently affected bottles and cans are returned in Michigan.

Whereas: Currently, 11 states have bottle deposit laws in place for drink cans and soda bottles. Michigan leads the way as the only state to have a \$.10 deposit, whereas 9 other states have a \$.05 deposit and California has a varying deposit return.

Whereas: Currently, only three states- Maine, Hawaii, and California- have bottle deposit returns for water bottles, juice, tea, and sport drinks.

Whereas: Michigan's bottle deposit law was formed in 1976, over a decade before widespread usage of water bottles, juice, tea, and sport drinks.

Whereas: With an increase in water bottle usage, et all, comes an increase in water bottle pollution, including leaving those bottles as litter and throwing the bottles out instead of recycling them.

Whereas: Setting in place a deposit for water bottles, et all, would not increase the cost of the water bottles so long as they were recycled.

Whereas: Returning the bottles is no burden on the consumer, as virtually all major grocery stores in the state of Michigan already have in place bottle deposit recycling machines.

Be it Resolved that the state of Michigan amend the 1976 Bottle Deposit Law (445.573c) to include water bottles, juice, tea, and sport drinks.