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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David D. Whitaker
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 25, 2019

RE: **Resolution in support of Michigan House Bill 4064**

On February 19, 2019, the Honorable Council President Brenda Jones requested the Legislative Policy Division to draft a resolution in support of House Bill 4064. Which, if passed would establish a program to assist schools and child care centers with testing and removing lead from drinking water coolers or other sources under the control of schools or child care centers in Michigan.

Attached, please find our draft of the resolution and contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4064 TO PRESCRIBE A
PROGRAM FOR TESTING AND REMOVING LEAD IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS
AND CHILD CARE CENTERS**

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, The Flint Water Crisis, brought the safety of our much neglected public fresh water delivery systems into stark focus, although all the evidence has not come in yet, it would appear that the public officials placement of budget constraints above the wellbeing of their residents may have a major role in the catastrophe that followed, and

WHEREAS, This past error has encouraged officials to exercise a bit more diligence when addressing water quality within aging infrastructure systems; and

WHEREAS, When faced with similar water quality issues in 2018, Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD) Superintendent Dr. Vitti, acting on the behalf of the health and safety of Detroit students, after initial testing results for 16 schools showed higher than acceptable levels for copper and/or lead at one or more water sources, ordered that all of the water fountains in the district's public schools to be shut off, until it was certain that the water system was safe and free from contamination; and

WHEREAS, Michigan House Bill 4064, introduced by Representative Sheldon Neeley (D), would amend Section 2 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (MCL 325.1002) and by adding section 7a. would require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to establish a program to assist schools and child care centers in testing and remediating lead contamination in drinking water from drinking water coolers or other sources under the control of the schools or child care centers and to conduct periodic sampling and testing. Upon receipt of the test results from each school and child care center, the MDEQ, would be required to make the test results available to the public on the Department's website. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby supports House Bill 4064, in order to protect the youth of Detroit from contaminated drinking water in schools and child care centers; **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, the Detroit Delegation in the State House and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.