

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN
SENATOR GARY PETERS' COVID-19 HEROES FUND**

By: City Council Member Janeé L. Ayers

WHEREAS, since the start of the pandemic in the United States, including the State of Michigan and the city of Detroit, essential workers have been the backbone of the continuation of production and distribution of essential services (including but not limited to police, fire, transportation, food and grocery service and personnel) that support the fundamental needs of all U.S. Citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council acknowledges the unselfish sacrifice these dedicated workers continue to provide and the unheralded danger they endure on a daily basis in the face of this unprecedented pandemic; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Gary Peters of Michigan has proposed the COVID-19 Heroes Fund to the U. S. Congress for consideration of a pandemic premium pay to reward, retain, & recruit essential workers stating that:

“Essential frontline workers are the true heroes of America’s COVID-19 pandemic response. I believe we should provide premium pay to frontline workers during this pandemic to reward essential frontline workers, ensure the retention of essential workers who are working grueling hours on the frontlines of this crisis, and promote the recruitment of additional workers who will be needed in the months ahead”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Peters proposes

a pandemic premium pay increase for essential frontline workers, equivalent to a raise of an additional \$13 per hour from the start of the public health emergency until 60 days after its termination..

The amount of Premium Pay:

- Uses a flat-dollar amount per hour premium model in order to ensure it is clear, simple, and lifts up particularly those workers making lower wages.
- Would give each essential frontline worker \$13/hour premium pay on top of regular wages for all hours worked in essential industries.
- Would cap the total maximum premium pay at certain amounts for essential frontline workers earning less than \$200,000 per year and those earning \$200,000 or more per year, respectively

The duration of Premium Pay:

- Must be for a specified and clear duration of time to ensure workers can rely on it for their economic security and plan for needs like additional child care.
- Should cover all hours worked by each essential frontline worker through 60 days after termination of the public health emergency, or until the worker's salary-based maximum premium pay is reached.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Heroes Fund would be fully federally funded and would partner with entities designated as an "eligible employer" (states, localities, tribes, and certain private sector employers) to issue the fund's premium payments to eligible workers; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council understands the need to provide the necessary compensation to these essential service workers particularly those low wage workers putting their lives on the line; **BE IT THEREFORE**

RESOLVED, that the Detroit City Council fully supports Senator Gary Peters' COVID-19 Heroes Fund as proposed and urges the United States Congress to give full consideration and support to passage of the COVID-19 Heroes Fund; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Michigan Congressional delegation.