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TO: Internal Operation Standing Committee

FROM: David D. Whitaker 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 5, 2020

RE: **RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE ACT**

On September 16, 2020, the Honorable Council Pro Tem Mary Sheffield requested the Legislative Policy Division draft a resolution urging the federal government to expand the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to include workers of companies with more than 500 employees and extend the expiration date past December 31, 2020.

The draft resolution is attached for your review.

BY THE HONORABLE COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARY SHEFFIELD
RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

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, US House Representative, Nita Lowey (D-New York) sponsored H.R. 6201, referred to as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and on March 18, 2020 the President signed it into law; and

WHEREAS, Among the many provisions and program modifications¹ intended to respond to the economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With the continual spread of Coronavirus across our country, employers are facing the likelihood of employees pursuing coronavirus-related leave with increasing regularity, the FFCRA speaks to the adjustments employers have made to lessen the emotional and financial burdens placed on affected employees regarding closings, and layoffs; and

WHEREAS, The FFCRA provides assistance to workers and their families impacted by the economic fall-out of COVID-19. The FFCRA provides a new Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) which requires employers with less than 500 employees to provide paid sick leave to employees who cannot work (including remote work), employees affected by isolation/quarantine orders, employees with COVID-19 symptoms, employees caring for another person in one of those categories, or employees caring for a minor child due to school or daycare closures. Additionally, it provides longer paid leave and extends FMLA protection through the end of 2020, if an employee needs to care for a child under age 18 or if their school or daycare is closed; and

WHEREAS, The temporary closing of major companies has left many workers unable to meet the yearly requirement of 1,250 hours worked to qualify for the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This distinction effected many Detroiters and Michiganders, especially those working in automobile manufacturing and other industries, are deprived of the protections most other workers were afforded because they were laid off during the companies’ closures. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council urges the federal government to extend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act beyond its expiration date of December 31, 2020, and to include private employers with over 500 employees within its definition of covered employees. **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Mayor Mike Duggan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Congressional Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Nita Lowey, Brenda Lawrence and Rashida Tlaib, Senators Gary Peters, Debbie Stabenow and Charles Schumer.

¹ The contents of the law include modifications in unemployment benefits, expands food assistance, establishes free coronavirus testing, increases food assistance for vulnerable children and families, protects front-line health workers, and provides additional funding to states for the ongoing economic consequences of the pandemic, among other provisions to support Americans.

