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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 20, 2021

RE: **RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 218**

Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution to oppose Michigan Senate Bill 218.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 218

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

WHEREAS, Discrimination aimed against an entire segment of any population is wrong, and for decades, our state lawmakers have opposed efforts to expand civil rights laws to the LGBTQ community, citing religious reasons. Although the consequential harms suffered by these people, are difficult to justify on any grounds; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 218, sponsored by Sen. Lana Theis, R-Brighton, favors the established ideology of exclusion, by attacking the civil rights of children. Senate Bill 218 resolves to prohibit transgender youths from playing on high school sports teams that do not conform to their biological gender. Furthermore, the bill is unclear on how the policy would be enforced or what the penalties would be for a student athlete, school or district, found in violation of the proposed law; and

WHEREAS, On March 15, 2021, the Detroit Free Press reported that MHSAA spokesman Geoff Kimmerly stated that in the last five years, only 10 out of nearly 180,000 student athletes, have used the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s transgender athlete policy and all 10 were found in compliance and were allowed to play; and

WHEREAS, In fact, Senate Bill 218 could actually prevent girls across the state from participating in sports. In Michigan, girls are playing tackle football at high schools in Ecorse, Detroit and other districts. Conversely, many smaller schools quite often have to combine teams for sports, including golf, wrestling and swimming; and

WHEREAS, Some Michigan Senate Republicans find it justified to target transgendered youth with legislation that is unnecessary and unconcealed. This bill is nothing more than a dog whistle that implies that LGBTQ people should not be treated fairly across all areas of life, just because of who they are; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council acknowledges how power extends not only by order, but through suppression and harassment urges the Michigan Legislature to oppose Senate Bill 218;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Detroit delegation in the State Senate and State House, Senate Committee on Education and Career Readiness, State Senator Lana Theis, Mayor Mike Duggan and Governor Whitmer.