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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 3, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 170 & 171**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that LPD provide City Council with a Resolution in Support of Senate Bills 170-171.

Please contact our office if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 170 & 171

- WHEREAS,** In late September 2023, the members of the Michigan Senate Labor Committee voted to advance Senate Bills 170 and 171 to the Committee of the Whole; and
- WHEREAS,** If passed, Senate Bills 170 and 171 would repeal Public Act 98 and Public Act 105 respectively. Public Act 98 and Public Act 105 are part of a series of statutes that preempt the ability of local governments to enact policies at the local level.; and
- WHEREAS,** At the time of its passage, Public Act 105 was nicknamed the “Death Star Bill” because it completely destroys the power of local governments to enact policies that are beneficial to workers, including minimum wage increases, fair scheduling laws, paid leave, additional requirements for apprenticeship training beyond state-law requirements, and many other standards; and
- WHEREAS,** As a result of Public Act 105, local governments have been stripped of their ability to address declining wages at a local level, meanwhile Michigan’s median wage was 7% above the national median in 2005 and has dropped below the national median for the last decade;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** Fair scheduling laws, which require that workers receive advance notice of schedules or additional pay when schedules change on short notice, would disproportionately improve the working conditions of Black workers if enacted in Detroit, particularly benefitting Black Women;² and
- WHEREAS,** Public Act 98 prohibits the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on publicly funded construction projects. A PLA is a contract that sets the conditions of employment for all contractors and subcontractors working on a specific construction project. Public Act 98 barred governmental units from entering an agreement where the contract or any subcontract contained a PLA, forbade governmental units from awarding tax incentives to entities with a PLA, and forbade the placement of any PLA terms in bid specifications or other agreements; and
- WHEREAS,** Without the prohibition on PLAs, governmental units could utilize PLAs to, for example, support higher wages on construction projects, encourage the use of skilled union labor, outline goals for hiring local community members and underserved communities, and require the participation of small businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** Prior to widespread preemption, many Midwest cities were known as incubators for innovative policies that supported working families. The passage of Public Acts 170 and 171 will restore the critical ability of local governments to enact labor standards necessary to help reverse inequality and build local economies that work for everyone; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

¹ <https://www.epi.org/publication/repeal-mich-preemption-laws/>

² *Id.*

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby strongly urges the Michigan Legislature to pass Senate Bills 170 and 171; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan, the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.