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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 25, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATING THE GROUND  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN MICHIGAN**

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of implementing the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program in Michigan.

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

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTING THE GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN MICHIGAN**

- WHEREAS,** In April of 2024, Michigan Representative Mike McFall introduced HB 5695 of 2024, which would enroll Michigan in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program; and
- WHEREAS,** The GEMT program is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and it coordinates with state agencies to fund and reimburse eligible health care companies that provide transport for emergency medical services; and
- WHEREAS,** Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) Michigan residents are enrolled in Medicaid,<sup>1</sup> and over 2.8 million Medicaid enrollees in Michigan do not receive the full reimbursement available from the federal government;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS,** Implementation of the GEMT program in Michigan will yield a stable source of federal funding that will improve service delivery and quality of care for Medicaid recipients; and
- WHEREAS,** The GEMT program will also help Michigan public agencies, including the City of Detroit, to recruit and retain emergency service providers, which is a sector that has struggled with workforce retention in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** Participation in the GEMT program is voluntary, and each local governing body has the option to decide whether to participate based on the expected costs and benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** The MI-GEMT coalition has collaborated with lawmakers to draft HB 5695 and is advocating for the passage of the legislation directing the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to enroll in the GEMT program; and
- WHEREAS,** The MI-GEMT coalition includes the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Municipal League, and the Michigan Townships Association; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council strongly supports the passage of HB 5695 and the implementation of the GEMT program in Michigan; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-mi>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mml.org/inside208/2024/04/29/legislation-encouraging-state-participation-in-the-cms-gemt-program-introduced-in-the-house/>