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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division Staff



DATE: August 27, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 492**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution in support Michigan Senate Bill 492.

Please contact our office if we can provide any further assistance.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 492**

- WHEREAS** In July of 2024, Michigan Senator Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) introduced Senate Bill 492, which is meant to ensure that when a student transfers from one school to another, the student will not be disenrolled from their current school until the records are accepted by the new school; and
- WHEREAS** This bill is largely in response to a particularly harrowing case in Pontiac, where a young boy and his two younger sisters were abandoned by their mother and left alone in a house for nearly five years while it accumulated garbage, feces, and mold; and
- WHEREAS** Aside from receiving occasional food deliveries, the children were left entirely alone without any form of education or interaction with other people; and
- WHEREAS** These children fell through the cracks due of a flaw in the process for transferring schools, where the mother informed her children's school that they were transferring to another district and the school sent transcripts to the new district and removed the children from their system, however, the children were never enrolled in the new school so they essentially disappeared from the system; and
- WHEREAS** The proposed Senate Bill 492 would require that, during a transfer of a student to a new school, the current school receive confirmation from the new school district that the student has been enrolled prior to transferring information and disenrolling the student from their system; and
- WHEREAS** While Senate Bill 492 would create a positive change by preventing other children from enduring this type of abandonment, the Bill must be part of a larger effort to close gaps in Michigan's education system; and
- WHEREAS** Detroit has one of the highest chronic absenteeism<sup>1</sup> rates in the country, which has spiked to more than 50% in recent school years since the COVID-19 pandemic, and chronic absenteeism is linked to lower levels of readiness making it less likely that students will receive passing grades or graduate;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS** Chronic absenteeism rates are often driven by factors outside of both the student's and the school's control, such as unreliable transportation, health issues, lack of access to childcare, and parents who work non-traditional hours;<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS** Policymakers across all levels of government can work to address factors that influence attendance across all sectors by providing investment and resources to sectors such as health care, housing, transportation, and social services that support students and their families;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

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<sup>1</sup> Chronis Absenteeism is typically defined as missing 10% or more of school days.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/2025/08/20/detroit-schools-skipping-absentee-truancy-parents-kids/85732201007/>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* citing Lenhoff, S.W., Singer, J. (2025). Rethinking Chronic Absenteeism: Why Schools Can't Solve It Alone.

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council hereby expresses its strong support for the passage of Michigan Senate Bill 492; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan, the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Michigan Senator Jeremy Moss.