

RESOLUTION OPPOSING "LET MI KIDS LEARN" VOUCHER INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution states, "No public monies or property shall be appropriated or paid or any public credit utilized, by the legislature or any other political subdivision or agency of the state directly or indirectly to aid or maintain any private, denominational or other nonpublic, preelementary, elementary, or secondary school;" and

WHEREAS, vetoed House Bills 4504 and 4505, and vetoed Senate Bills 687 and 688 conferred an eventual \$1 billion per year in unconstitutional tax credits to be used for an unconstitutional, backdoor private school voucher program; and

WHEREAS, letters vetoing those bills pointedly stated, "Redirecting public school dollars for private gain is not only ineffective, it has been roundly rejected by Michigan voters, with more than 69% voting "no" on a proposal that would have allowed the use of tuition vouchers for nonpublic schools," and "Simply put, our schools cannot provide the high-quality education our kids deserve if we turn private schools into tax shelters for the wealthy;" and

WHEREAS, in response to the vetoes, tuition voucher advocates have launched the "Let MI Kids Learn" and "Student Opportunity Scholarship" statutory initiatives to place those bills into law; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan law, the Legislature can bypass Michigan citizens' ability to vote on a statutory initiative that collects only 340,047 signatures from the more than 8 million registered voters.

Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows:

1. That the _____ Board of Education opposes the "Let MI Kids Learn" and "Student Opportunity Scholarship" statutory initiatives being solicited by the organization called "Let MI Kids Learn"; and
2. That the _____ Board of Education calls upon the Legislature to reject the statutory initiatives in the event they are presented to the Legislature; and
3. That the _____ Board of Education calls upon the Legislature, in the event they do not reject the statutory initiatives, to refrain from voting on them, to allow the citizens of Michigan to vote on the matter; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to: (1) all elected members of the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan State Senate who represent the _____ School District, (2) the leadership of the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate, and (3) to the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Resolved and adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Board Representative Name

Board Representative Signature

Retired Educators: Return to Michigan Schools With Zero Earning Limitations

Last month, MASB, along with other education organizations, issued a press release encouraging retired educators to review recent changes to state law making it easier to return to schools across the state with zero earning limitations.

In July, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the law, Public Act 184 of 2022, adjusting the time period for retirees to be able to be hired to substitute from a year to nine months. It also removes the critical shortage list allowing retirees to return wherever needed and the requirement that districts pay the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability costs for that retiree. This went into effect on July 25, 2022.

The Michigan Office of Retirement Services has created a detailed FAQ page to help answer additional questions about the new law and its impact. An infographic explaining the requirements is also available on the ORS website.

Michigan Supreme Court Approves Initiatives for November Ballot

Two potential ballot initiatives faced deadlock votes by the Board of Canvassers as they considered approving them for the ballot. After the tie vote, both ballot committees filed with the Michigan Supreme Court to be approved for the ballot.

Late yesterday, in a 5-2 vote, the MSC approved both and they will appear on the November 2022 ballot. The first, Promote the Vote 2022, would establish a fundamental right to vote and prohibit any actions or laws from denying or interfering with or unreasonably burdening the right to vote. This will appear as Proposal 22-2.

The second initiative, Reproductive Freedom for All, would affirm a person's fundamental right to reproductive freedom without political interference. If the initiative is approved by voters this fall, it protects reproductive freedom in the state. This will appear as Proposal 22-3.

These two proposals will join Proposal 22-1, which is intended to reform term limits. It would reduce the number of service years to 12 total but allow them to be served in either chamber along with requiring basic financial disclosures for state office candidates.

Second Voucher Petition Submitted, Pass School Board Resolution Opposing Vouchers

Last week, the Let MI Kids Learn coalition turned in the second petition of the two-part ballot proposal. The first petition, turned in two weeks ago, would create "student opportunity scholarships." The second would establish a tax credit for student opportunity scholarships.

These signatures will have to be reviewed by the Secretary of State and then will go before the State Board of Canvassers for approval. If approved the Legislature will then have 40 days to consider the petition and could adopt it. If they do not act, it will be placed on the November 2024 ballot. However, we fully expect the Legislature to act.

The For MI Kids, For Our Schools Coalition continues to inform the public and legislators of the negative impacts of both proposals and how they violate the Michigan Constitution by creating indirect state aid to nonpublic schools.

We encourage you to pass the board resolution to send to your legislators and House and Senate leadership requesting that they vote NO on this initiative if it comes before them. Please share your adopted board resolutions with the MASB Government Relations Team as well.

Secure Your Spot Today for Election Forecast Webinar!

Register today for the Election Forecast and What it Means for Our Schools webinar from 9 a.m. - noon on Tuesday, Sept. 20. The webinar fee is \$99 and will include a presentation on the upcoming election, including what polls are saying and how redistricting is affecting the races. A panel of lobbyists will discuss how they look at the election in their roles and how it affects their work during lame duck, as well as going into a new session with many new faces. Finally, your Government Relations staff will give a brief legislative update and take any questions you have about the election or current issues.