

Dear Legislator:

We are writing to urge your support for expanding Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC has a proven record of increasing employment, expanding local economies, and aiding small businesses. It also lifts up workers with low to moderate incomes, helps families afford essentials, and has lifted millions of people out of poverty.

Senate Bill 417, sponsored by Senator Wayne Schmidt, would gradually increase the Michigan EITC from the current 6 percent to 30 percent of the federal credit. At 30 percent, Michiganders would have an additional \$460 million to be spent in local communities at grocery stores, hardware stores, pharmacies, auto shops and more. This would benefit residents in every part of the state--rural and urban areas, all counties, both peninsulas, and in every political district and jurisdiction.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer, in her recent State of the State address, also stated her support for increasing the Michigan EITC.

Increasing the EITC would continue a long history of bipartisan support. The federal EITC, first signed into law by President Gerald R. Ford in 1975 after passage by a Democratic Congress, was later expanded by other presidents, including President Ronald Reagan. The Michigan EITC was created in 2006 with a Republican-led legislature and a Democratic Governor.

Expanding the Michigan EITC would not only put more money back into the pockets of working Michigan residents, but it would also help address the slow return to the labor force that is holding back Michigan's economic recovery. Research shows the EITC helps boost the labor supply by alleviating barriers like the cost and accessibility of child care, health concerns, and transportation costs that limit people's ability to fully participate in the labor force.

We represent business groups, economic development organizations, health care entities, the hospitality industry, non-profits, and religious organizations. Expanding the Michigan EITC will help fill jobs, boost small businesses, expand our economy, and give a chance for thousands of Michiganders to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,

Detroit Regional Chamber  
Grand Rapids Chamber  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Michigan Catholic Conference  
Small Business Association of Michigan  
Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association  
Oakland University  
Michigan Family Forum

Michigan Consensus Policy Project  
Michigan's Children  
Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM)  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Health Care Association of Michigan  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
United Way of Southwest Michigan  
United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region  
Michigan Nonprofit Association  
Council of Michigan Foundations  
West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology  
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation  
Roy Public Affairs  
Traverse City Tourism  
Michigan Works! Association  
Michigan Community Action Association  
Accounting Aid Society  
Heart of West Michigan United Way  
West Michigan Works!  
United Way of Washtenaw County  
Michigan Association of United Ways  
Kent County Essential Needs Task Force  
United Way of Midland County  
Michigan 211  
Upsurge Strategies  
Fifth Third Bank  
Greater Ottawa County United Way  
Anderson Economic Group  
United Way of Northwest Michigan  
Experience Grand Rapids  
Capital Area United Way  
Health Care Association of Michigan  
Kent District Library  
Holland Helpers, LLC  
Kent ISD Adult Education  
West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology  
Write Strategy  
United Church Outreach Ministry  
Hope Gain Center of West Michigan  
Positive Impact for Life

Health Net of West Michigan  
Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation  
Community Food Club  
Christian Reformed Church of North America  
Project GREEN  
Church of the Servant  
AYA Youth Collective  
Greene & Associates  
Visit Detroit  
Kent ISD  
Bethany Christian Services  
Tawas Tool Company  
Noor's Heaven of West Michigan Services  
Extended Learning Opportunities  
The SOURCE  
Volunteers In Service