

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
Upurge 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