



## MICHIGAN STUDENT CAUCUS

### *Platform and Service Actions*

Presented December 2, 2008

Michigan State Capitol  
Lansing, MI

<http://michiganstudentcaucus.org>

## **About the Michigan Student Caucus**

The Michigan Student Caucus represents students throughout Michigan to the Michigan State Legislature. Since 2001, thousands of students across Michigan have participated in online deliberation, negotiation and voting leading to the construction of a political platform that is presented in formal testimony to the House Commission on Civic Engagement.

The Michigan Student Caucus is not affiliated with any political party or organization. The MSC is open to any Michigan resident (permanent or temporary) who is a student. For information about the program, please contact our faculty advisors at The University of Michigan, Professors Gary Weisserman, Jeff Kupperman and David Lossing.

Twice each year, MSC participants, including hundreds of high school and college students from around Michigan, present testimony about the MSC platform before the Michigan House of Representatives' Special Commission on Civic Engagement.

There are five content areas in which students create legislative platforms for discussion, debate, and eventual inclusion on the semester's platform. The content areas are:

- Education and the Arts
- Health
- Poverty
- Environment and Science
- Justice and Security

In addition to the on-line postings and deliberations, students are required to participate in an actual service activity project during the semester. Those service projects are found near the end of this document.

# **Education and the Arts**

## ***Resolution to Reduce the Cost of Textbooks***

Authors: Brock Strasbourger and Marisa Seiss

**WHEREAS** College textbook costs are a burden on students, as prices are increasingly expensive and;

**WHEREAS** In 2006-2007 students at four year schools spent on average about \$900 on textbooks and;

**WHEREAS** The average gross margin on new textbooks is currently 22.7% and;

**WHEREAS** The gross margin for used textbooks is 35.9% and;

**WHEREAS** In 2006-2007 only 26% of college students say that they pay for textbooks and supplies with scholarships and grants and that the aide covered 45% of the costs of the course materials and;

**WHEREAS** Large survey courses, year after year, use virtually the same materials but with updated editions merely for new problem sets and;

**WHEREAS** Bundled materials drive up the costs for students by grouping items together that the student may not necessarily want to buy (i.e., CDs, workbooks, etc.) and;

**WHEREAS** Oftentimes, teachers and professors do not submit their book lists early enough for students to compare prices and shop online and;

**WHEREAS** The states of Illinois and Minnesota have implemented the "College Textbook Affordability Act of 2007" under the 110th Congress.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Publishers be required to include the price of textbooks and supplemental material when providing information to faculty and;

**BE IT RESOLVED** The history of revisions and whether the textbook and supplemental material be available in a potentially lower-priced alternative format and;

**BE IT RESOLVED** Publishers who bundle course materials be required to offer the textbooks and supplemental material in unbundled versions and;

**BE IT RESOLVED** Colleges receiving federal assistance must include the ISBN (international standard book number) and retail price of textbooks and supplemental materials in the course schedule and;

**BE IT RESOLVED** Schools, when asked, must provide bookstores with access to the course schedule, ISBN numbers of course material, and the maximum and current course enrollment numbers early enough to give bookstores the chance to order used books, in turn reducing the price for students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Universities must maintain an early adoption rate of at least 75% by having their faculty submit their reading lists and course materials to students at least ten weeks prior to the start of classes. This will allow bookstores the chance to locate and purchase mass quantities of used textbooks while students can compare prices and find the cheapest option.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Adoption rates can be tracked by the state in two ways. First, through the bookstores to see whether or not the faculty has submitted their lists by the given deadlines OR second, on the school's course guide, on which faculty members must enter their required texts for students to view prior to the start of classes.

**BE IT RESOLVED** If the university does not have a 75% adoption rate, then the university will be fined three times the percentage of the overall cost increased to the students due to the late textbook submission.

### ***Mandatory Current Events class in High Schools and Universities***

Authors: Jordana Cohen, Amanda Rosenhaus and Jessica Garfinkel

**WHEREAS** General high school curricula consists of history, english, math, language, science, arts and music, with limited exposure to current events

**WHEREAS** Once a college major is declared, students' courses focus mainly in their concentration, with no specific course dedicated to national and worldwide issues.

**WHEREAS** An LSA student at the University of Michigan is required to take first-year writing, upper-level writing, race and ethnicity, quantitative reasoning, language, in addition to 7 credits of natural science, humanities, and social science.

**WHEREAS** 98% of students say keeping up with current events is important to them (USA TODAY)

**WHEREAS** According to a USA Today poll, 92% of college students say that newspapers are important to their education

**WHEREAS** Only 38% of people aged 18 to 24 read a newspaper during the week

**WHEREAS** Historically, newspaper readership has increased with education

**WHEREAS** Only 50% of high school graduates read the newspaper daily

**WHEREAS** This issue is gaining awareness throughout the country, especially from concerned educators and parents.

**Therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Every student in college should be required to take a specially designed course covering current events

**BE IT RESOLVED** High school curricula should include daily current events classes where students are required to read the newspaper and participate in class discussions covering national and worldwide issues.

**BE IT RESOLVED** College students can have the option of taking a current events class that is related to their concentration. This way, they can enhance their understanding and perspective and put their studies in context

**BE IT RESOLVED** The high school current events courses should include various types of media comparisons. Students should be encouraged to read different newspapers to compare stories, as well as search the web for current events. They should watch a number of different news channels to

get a broadened view of how stories are portrayed, which would help each student develop his/her own opinions regarding current issues.

**BE IT RESOLVED** High school and college students can also fulfill their requirement by volunteering in their communities and having direct involvement in current events

**BE IT RESOLVED** There should be an affiliation between newspaper publishing companies and schools so that newspapers can be provided at a low cost for students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The national public school system will require all high school students to pass an annual multiple-choice examination at the end of each year, regarding the previous year's current events. This will require students to stay up-to-date with what happened in the news all year.

**BE IT RESOLVED** College students should be required to make an end-of-semester presentation regarding a current events topic that they have been tracking all year, which should include presenting several sides of the topic, allowing the audience to hear all sides of the debate and make opinions of their own.

**BE IT RESOLVED** College students should be required to formulate solutions to a current events issue, forcing them to not only learn about current events but to also apply their analytical skills to the real world.

# Health

## ***Nutritional Food Throughout Michigan School Cafeterias-- A MUST***

Authors: Chad Schwartz, Ali Ziegler and David Weitz

**WHEREAS** According to USA Today, This year alone 42 state legislatures have enacted or proposed measures that require or recommend nutritional guidance for schools

**WHEREAS** Healthy food is necessary in school and university cafeterias due to the recent obesity epidemic. Obesity is defined as having too much body fat. According to the University of Michigan Health System, a child is obese if their weight is more than 20% higher than the ideal weight for a boy or girl of their age and height.

**WHEREAS** About 19 percent of children ages 6 to 11 are considered overweight, while 17 percent of adolescents ages 12 to 19 are overweight, according to a 2003-4 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**WHEREAS** People who are overweight or obese have greatly increased risks of suffering from diseases such as Hypertension, Osteoarthritis, Dyslipidemia, Type 2 diabetes, Coronary heart disease, Stroke, Gallbladder disease, Sleep apnea and respiratory problems in addition to some types of cancers.

**WHEREAS** According to CDC (Center for Disease Control) Statewide obesity Rates, the state of Michigan has reported a 27.7% obesity rate in 2007 alone.

**WHEREAS** Between 1980 and 2000 obesity rates doubled among children and tripled among teens. Obese children do tend to eat larger portions or higher calorie foods, like high-fat foods.

**WHEREAS** "Michigan Schools" include statewide Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Private Schools, Colleges and Universities all located throughout the state of Michigan.

**WHEREAS** The Michigan State Board of Education recognizes and acknowledges, through its policy on coordinated school health programs that schools cannot achieve their primary mission of education if students and staff are not physically, mentally and socially healthy.

**WHEREAS** A [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) study shows that in 2007, only one state (Colorado) had a prevalence of obesity less than 20%. Thirty states had obesity prevalence's equal to or greater than 25%, three of these states (Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee) had a prevalence of obesity equal to or greater than 30%

**WHEREAS** According to [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov), Michigan's Surgeon General plans to release the first-ever health status report in 2010. This legislation will document the state's efforts to improve the well being of the people of Michigan. The document is a 133-page Healthy Michigan status report which points out that in areas related to healthy lifestyles, (such as physical activity, healthy weight, and good nutrition) Michigan has room for improvement

**WHEREAS** The Michigan Board of Education believes schools should provide a campus-wide environment supporting student adoption of healthy eating behaviors. Students should be given the opportunity to learn and practice these behaviors by having access to healthy food and beverage choices.

**WHEREAS** In a study last year, the Center for Science in the Public Interest graded the state nutrition programs. The highest grade, an A minus, was awarded to Kentucky. Twelve states were awarded B's

(New Jersey got a B, Connecticut a B minus), six states and the District of Columbia received C's, eight states were awarded D's (New York earned a D plus) and 23 states were graded F.

**WHEREAS** According to Michigan State Board of Education Policy on Offering Healthy Food and Beverages in Venues Outside of the Federally Regulated Child Nutrition Programs, establishing healthy eating behaviors during the school-age years can make an important contribution to short and long-term disease prevention and health promotion.

**WHEREAS** School districts across the country have been taking steps to make food in schools healthier because of new federal guidelines and awareness that a growing number of children are overweight

**WHEREAS** The purpose of the Michigan Board of Education health policy is to ensure that students have access to food that meets their nutrient requirements to promote health and foster learning. Food and beverages that compete with this policy's purpose should be discouraged. Healthy food and beverages that comply with this policy's purpose should predominate in all school venues.

**WHEREAS** According to Michigan Team Nutrition, Schools play a key role in creating an environment where students can improve their food choices and be active. Ninety-nine percent of children ages 7-13 are enrolled in school.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That every Michigan school should be required to participate in Team Nutrition. Team Nutrition is a national USDA initiative designed to motivate, encourage and empower schools, families and the community to work together to continually improve school meals and help students and families make food and physical activity choices for a healthy lifestyle. Team Nutrition schools make a commitment to help children eat healthy and be physically active; they receive free resources and are eligible to apply for grants to support changes in their school environment. More than 600 Michigan schools are enrolled in Team Nutrition

**BE IT RESOLVED** All areas of the food pyramid should be offered in school cafeterias in Michigan in order to support a healthy and structured diet. By offering a wide variety of food, it will enable kids to choose a healthy meal that is most desirable to them and will not force them to eat unhealthy, stereotypical, fried cafeteria food.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan will follow in the footsteps of California and New Jersey by banning deep fryers so chicken nuggets and fries are now baked, and cutting 20-ounce sports to 12-ounce sport drinks.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan should be enrolled in the Farm to School lunch program. This program connects schools with local farms to provide healthy cafeteria food while simultaneously supporting local farmers. Participating schools not only obtain food locally, they incorporate nutrition-based curriculum and take children to visit the local farms in order to provide students with learning opportunities. Also, since many local producers are turning to organic growing methods, this new food from the local farms will have fewer pesticides and will be less hazardous for the students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan should enforce existing U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations that prohibit serving foods of minimal nutritional value during mealtimes in school food service areas, including in vending machines.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan Schools should not only take lunch meals into account but also should put careful consideration into the planning of their breakfast meals as well. According to the MDCH (Michigan's Department for Community Health), breakfast is one of the most important, and frequently eaten meals of the day. There is evidence that shows breakfast improves your overall

health and well being, as well as your longevity. By adding healthier breakfast meals in schools throughout Michigan, students will have less hyperactivity, irritability, and anxiety; in addition to less disruptive classroom behavior; less tardiness; and an increased ability to concentrate and solve problems.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The state of Michigan should follow issue MI HB 4097 of the National Conference of State Legislatures regarding the issue of vending machines in schools, which states... "Would restrict sales of foods and drinks whether as part of a school meal program, vending machine sale, or other food sales. Would prohibit the sales in elementary and middle schools of chewing gum, candy, food or drink that consists of 35 percent or more sugar or other sweetener, juice that is less than 100 percent real fruit or vegetable juice, and a food or drink containing more than 8 grams of fat per serving."

**BE IT RESOLVED** Each school, which participated in the Healthier Foods Program and Team Nutrition, will be monitored by a yearly survey. The survey will keep each school, college and university up to date with the actions and steps each other school have been striving for. We believe by monitoring each schools progress; the results will motivate other schools into creating healthier environments for their students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan schools should reduce access to foods high in fat, calories, and added sugars and to excessive portion sizes. By limiting portion sizes alone, students will have immediate dietetic changes; a drastically positive measure in the fight for healthier foods.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan schools should implement a three-day workshop to sharpen the cafeteria workers food safety skills. More specifically, this class teaches the workers about food borne illnesses and the need to keep food at proper temperatures and stored safely. This workshop has already been implanted by several schools according to WTYTV News (<http://www.wtvnews4.com/home/headlines/25562804.html>)

### ***Giving People the Right to Know: Nutritional Intake***

Authors: Daniel Elrod and Lewis Benjamin

**WHEREAS** According to MI SB 595 (2007, enacted, Chapter No. 114) - A food service establishment may, but is not required to, provide on the selection information, so that it is publicly available, a statement regarding the presence or lack of artificial trans fat in any food served by the food service establishment; and

**WHEREAS** The state of Michigan has the 6th highest level of adult obesity in the nation at 25.2 percent and the 12th highest high school overweight levels at 12.4 percent; and

**WHEREAS** The state of Michigan has spent an estimated \$291 per person in 2003 on medical-costs related to obesity; and

**WHEREAS** According to a recent study by Forbes Magazine, the city of Detroit ranks as the fifth heaviest city in America; and

**WHEREAS** According to Trust for Americas Health, the state of Michigan was ranked the ninth heaviest state in America; and

**WHEREAS** Only four states, California, Hawaii, Texas, and West Virginia -- have set nutritional standards for foods sold in schools that are not part of the federally sponsored school lunch program, called "competitive foods," which include items sold in vending machines, ala carte in cafeterias, snack shops, and bake sales; and

**WHEREAS** Eighteen states limit the availability of competitive foods beyond federal requirements, Michigan does not; and

**WHEREAS** New York City has adopted a restaurant-labeling bill that requires restaurants with 10 or more locations nationwide to provide certain nutritional data in menus

**WHEREAS** An excess intake of saturated fat has been shown to raise blood cholesterol, increases the risk of ovarian cancer and contributes to weight gain by providing excess calories; and

**WHEREAS** An excess intake of carbohydrates causes health defects such as weight gain, low blood sugar, high blood pressure, fatigue and depression; and

**WHEREAS** An excess intake of trans fat increases risk of invasive breast cancer and causes increases in LDL (bad) cholesterol and a decrease in HDL (good) cholesterol: and

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the state of Michigan require restaurant franchises with 10 or more national location to supply the saturated fat, sodium, carbohydrates, trans fat and calorie content of each item on the menu; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** The state of Michigan require all schools to provide the aforementioned nutritional data on school menus; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** That these restaurant franchises will be required to pay all printing costs to supply nutritional data on menu; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** That restaurants not in compliance with this statute will be subject to a penalty or fine. Resulting revenue of which can be placed in the state budget for school health programs

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the state of Michigan pay all printing costs for schools to supply nutritional data in menus, vending machines, snake shops and at bake sales; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** Child obesity levels in Michigan will be lower as a result of nutritional data being added to school menus and vending machines; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** By 2018 Michigan citizens will have an improved diet and healthier eating habits; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** By 2018 Michigan obesity levels will be lower; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** By 2018 Michigan will be a prime model for states seeking to implement nutritional facts into menus of franchises with 10 or more national locations and in schools, in an effort to create a healthier America

### ***Healthier Cafeteria Food***

Author: Shawn Silverman

**WHEREAS** Less than 40% of children and adolescents in the United States meet the U.S. dietary guidelines for saturated fat.

**WHEREAS** During the past 30 years there has been a dramatic increase in obesity. For children aged 2–5 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5.0% to 13.9%; for those aged 6–11 years,

prevalence increased from 6.5% to 18.8%; and for those aged 12–19 years, prevalence increased from 5.0% to 17.4%. ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

**WHEREAS** Overweight and obesity, influenced by poor diet and inactivity, are significantly associated with an increased risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, joint problems, and poor health status.

**WHEREAS** “According to reports released by the Associated Press and CNN, many school cafeterias are not getting the twice-yearly inspections required by law. The inspections are designed to help prevent food poisoning and the spread of food borne illness. USDA data suggests that one in 10 schools did not get inspected at all in the last year. And, 30% were only visited once, according to a CNN online report.”

**WHEREAS** Overweight children and adolescents are more likely to become overweight or obese adults.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Schools in Michigan should institute a program known as “Farm to School” which was spearheaded by the Center for Food and Justice (CFJ) in 2000. Farm to School brings healthy food from local farms to schoolchildren nationwide. These programs connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local small farmers (<http://www.farmtoschool.org/aboutus.php>).

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan schools should implement a three-day workshop to sharpen the cafeteria workers food safety skills. More specifically, this class teaches the workers about food borne illnesses and the need to keep food at proper temperatures and stored safely. This workshop has already been implanted by several schools according to WTYTV News (<http://www.wtvnews4.com/home/headlines/25562804.html>).

**BE IT RESOLVED** Due to rising food costs, more lobbying is needed to increase reimbursement rates at state and federal level.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Michigan Farm to School Program offers fresher food, and an increased variety of foods. Michigan has the second most diverse crops in the country after California. Additionally, this program provides an interactive educational experience for students. Finally, this program offers local farmers a stable opportunity, which helps lessen risk and increase diversification.

### ***Mandatory Sex Education Class in High Schools***

Authors: Lindsay Reiss and Lizzy Sternberg

**WHEREAS** Section 380.1507 in the revised school code of the Michigan Department of Education says that instruction in sex education may be an elective class for high school students.

**WHEREAS** The curriculum outlined in the school code for sex education teaches family planning, human sexuality, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life.

**WHEREAS** The curriculum may also include the subjects of reproductive health, recognition, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted disease.

**WHEREAS** School districts are required to teach about dangerous communicable diseases, including but not limited to, HIV/AIDS. Instruction must be offered at least once a year at every building level (Sec 380.1169).

**WHEREAS** School districts can choose to teach sex education and must do so in accordance with those sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws related to sex education and reproductive health.

**WHEREAS** A pupil shall not be enrolled in a class unless a parent/guardian is notified prior to the beginning of the term and is given the opportunity to review the materials for the course. Pupils are then permitted to opt out upon written request.

**WHEREAS** Study after study has pointed out that sex education delays childbearing and does not lead to promiscuity or to early sexual experimentation. It is usually the reverse: if you are forearmed with that knowledge, you are more cautious.

**WHEREAS** Nineteen (19) million new STD infections occur each year, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24 (Centers for Disease Control); One in two sexually active youth will contract an STD by age 25 (2005 ASHA State of the Nation); Three in ten teenage girls (31%) become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20, resulting in more than 750,000 teen pregnancies a year. Eight in ten of these pregnancies are unintended and 81% are to unmarried teens (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy).

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the Michigan Department of Education amend section 380.1507 to make sex education mandatory for high school students and a graduation requirement. This should be incorporated into the mandatory health curriculum or can be taught as a separate course.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the Michigan Department of Education also amend section 380.1507b so that curriculum may not teach abstinence-only education and will include a discussion of alternative sexualities, promote condom use for those that are sexually active, encourage fewer sexual partners and educate about the importance of early identification and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

**BE IT RESOLVED** A pupil or a pupil's parent/guardian is notified of the content of the class, and may only be excused from attending the class after filing a formal complaint with the sex education advisory board.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That amending this section, according to United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural organization, would not lead to childbearing and does not lead to promiscuity or to early sexual experimentation.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That if you are forearmed with that knowledge, one is more cautious.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That Michigan would be the 21st state to implement mandatory sex education in public schools.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That teens that are sexually active in the United States (reported at 46% in 2005) would be able to make more knowledgeable decisions as they are fully informed about the repercussions of their actions, and are equipped to deal with all consequences.

# Poverty

## ***Proposal to Recycle Used Books to Inner City School Libraries***

Authors: Danielle Ahlzadeh and Drew Genter

**WHEREAS** For budgeting purposes- the College Board reported that for the 2007-08 scholastic year, students were estimated to spend \$805 to \$1,229 on textbooks depending upon the type of institution attended.

**WHEREAS** Textbook retailers use a 50% mark up on used books, and only a 33% markup on new books

**WHEREAS** Textbook prices have risen at twice the rate of annual inflation over the last two decades, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

**WHEREAS** A book that is in good condition, and will be used on campus the following semester, will garner up to 50% of the original price paid

**WHEREAS** If the bookstore has not verified that the book will be used the following term, they usually offer between 5 to 35 percent of the new retail price of the book.

**WHEREAS** Resellers offer a flat rate of one dollar for books that are not catalogued

**WHEREAS** Unequal educational, economic, or other types of opportunities have left a considerable segment of Americans disadvantaged. Providing this population segment with greater access to resources will provide a large benefit to them. Everyone can freely access the library, so it is an excellent place to offer an opportunity to learn.

**WHEREAS** While selling textbooks do offer students immediate cash, the long term impact of this practice is a rise in all textbook prices, according to Monica Hartmann, PHD, associate professor at University of Saint Thomas. "The growth of the used book market, particularly through the Internet, and the role fixed costs play in pricing decisions explain why prices of new textbooks are rising and are expected to continue rising in the future. Publishers only earn profit on the sales of new textbooks, not on the sales of used books...as more students are buying used textbooks – given the greater ease of buying used books on the Internet, publishers must sell 50,000 new books in the first year, 20,000-25,000 books in year two, and 5,000 books in year three in order to profitably sell textbooks in the large introductory principles market. The drop in new book sales reduces the number of books over which a publisher can recover its fixed costs, raising the average cost of production and consequently the price the publishers must charge to break even or earn some profit." - [http://www.textbookfacts.org/pdf/FAQs\\_Used\\_Textbooks.pdf](http://www.textbookfacts.org/pdf/FAQs_Used_Textbooks.pdf)

**WHEREAS** Most of the students living in inner city school areas have extremely low literacy rates; most of the inner-city public schools are failing to produce literate graduates

**WHEREAS** 44 Percent of Michigan adults read at a 4th grade level or below.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That students donate books in which they are not receiving a significant portion of their money back. Rather than selling a book back for a fraction of its worth, these books will be valued more for inner-city libraries who do not have a large collection of texts.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Book recycling bins should be placed in establishments that buy used books for resale.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Student Reading Club will accept volunteers to deliver books to library.

**BE IT RESOLVED** These books will help restock public libraries that are facing cuts in their staff and book budgets

**BE IT RESOLVED** Students should contact these inner-city libraries by telephone or email for information on specific times and places to donate their textbooks and guidelines concerning matters such as book condition and categories. Many libraries also post guidelines for book donations on their websites.<http://www.answerbag.co.uk/articles/How-to-Donate-Textbooks-to-Local-Libraries/bf1b7ee8-9729-a636-754a-c6b149323ec2>

### ***After School Programs***

Author: Randi Botwinick, Rachel Winer, and Kasey Rothkopf

**WHEREAS** A startling 72 percent of Detroit's children live in families that are low income, living just above the poverty line.

**WHEREAS** Nearly half of Detroit children 17 and younger lived in impoverished homes in 2004

**WHEREAS** After school hours are the peak time for juvenile crime and risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug use; yet, most youth do not have access to after-school programs

**WHEREAS** Every day, at least eight million children and youth are left alone and unsupervised once the school bell rings

**WHEREAS** Many observers blame the Detroit Public Schools for failing to adequately publicize the availability of tutoring, and not using radio ads or other media, for financial reasons.

**WHEREAS** 70,000 students are eligible for free tutoring under the No Child Left Behind Act, but only 10% of them participate.

**WHEREAS** In 2004, over 33% of all children between the ages of 5-17 living and attending school in Detroit fell below the poverty line. That same year, the official poverty rate of all children between those ages in the United States was about 17%. This means that the poverty rate of children in Detroit public schools is double that of the national rate.

**WHEREAS** While nine in 10 Americans think that all youth should have access to after school programs, two-thirds say it is difficult to find programs locally

**WHEREAS** More and more children in Detroit are growing up in homes with two working parents or a single working parent due to poverty

**WHEREAS** 79% of children in low-income families in Michigan have at least one employed parent—66% in Detroit. The majority of these parents are employed full-time, year-round. (2007)

**WHEREAS** Without structured, supervised activities in the after-school hours, youth are at greater risk of being victims of crime, or participating in anti-social behaviors

**WHEREAS** Juveniles are at the highest risk of being a victim of violence between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. And the peak hour for juvenile crime is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**WHEREAS** While the concept of after school programs for underprivileged kids seems to be taking off, the need for these programs is far from being met.

**WHEREAS** Students who spend no time in extracurricular activities, such as those offered in after school programs, are 49 percent more likely to have used drugs and 37 percent more likely to become teen parents than are those students who spend one to four hours per week in extracurricular activities.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** The state of Michigan, especially Detroit, should offer more quality after school programs because they provide children an opportunity to learn and grow

**BE IT RESOLVED** After school programs keep kids safe, improve academic achievement and help relieve the stresses on today's working families.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan should employ after school programs because they are defined as safe, structured activities that convene regularly in the hours after school and offer activities to help children learn new skills, and develop into responsible adults.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Activities may cover topics such as technology, reading, math, science and the arts. Programs may also offer new experiences such as community service, internships or tutoring and mentoring opportunities.

**BE IT RESOLVED** After school programs can serve as important youth violence prevention and intervention strategies

**BE IT RESOLVED** After school programs offer children and youth opportunities to learn new skills such as conflict resolution, prepare for a successful career, improve grades and develop relationships with caring adults

**BE IT RESOLVED** Skills learned in after school programs can be critical in helping youth develop in positive ways and to avoid behavior problems and conflict.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Despite the tendency to think of older children as able to take care of themselves, studies show that after school programs benefit youth at all levels, from elementary to high school.

**BE IT RESOLVED** A joint report between the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, shows that students in after school programs exhibit fewer behavioral problems, better ability to handle conflicts and improved self-confidence

**BE IT RESOLVED** Many government agencies and nonprofit organizations have begun to promote after school programs as a positive resource for youth in the past several years.

### ***Helping Detroit Schools through Tutoring and Mentorship***

Author: Jared Davidson

**WHEREAS** According to the US Census Bureau, Detroit is now the poorest city in America.

**WHEREAS** One-third of its residents are living below the official federal poverty level, \$19,157 in household income for a family of four.

**WHEREAS** Nearly one half of the city's children, 47.8 percent, live below the poverty level.

**WHEREAS** In a two-year period, an additional 75,000 to 80,000 residents fell into poverty.

**WHEREAS** The Detroit Public Schools have scored some of the lowest scores on standardized tests in the country.

**WHEREAS** According to a USA Today article, Detroit has lower than a 50% on-time graduation rate. (USA Today)

**WHEREAS** In fact, according to this article, Detroit actually has the lowest on-time graduation rate, a mere 21.7%, by far the lowest in the country. It is 17% less than the next city, Baltimore, with a 38.5% on-time graduation rate. (USA Today)

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** The State of Michigan should increase funding to the Detroit Public Schools.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Detroit School Districts should implement checks to ensure that every student meets a minimum score on standardized testing before proceeding on to the next grade.

**BE IT RESOLVED** A tutoring and mentorship program should be established where elite students from high schools in Michigan tutor and mentor students from Detroit on a weekly basis. The program should be done through volunteering, which would be advertised in the elite high schools. Students should want to participate not only as a rewarding experience, but also because it would boost their resume on their college application. Furthermore, the Michigan state government would fund these programs as part of education costs. Donations may also be needed if there is a funding shortfall.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Although somewhat already established, the state universities in Michigan, including the University of Michigan, should sponsor mentorship and tutoring programs for students from Detroit, possibly granting credit hours for participation.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Michigan government would fund the transportation for the Detroit students to the high schools. It would also need to pay for the space in which the tutoring takes place.

# Environment and Science

## ***Alternative Energies***

Author: Brittany Rae Bishop

**WHEREAS** Solar energy is one the most resourceful sources of energy for the future. One of the reasons for this is that the total energy we receive each year from the sun is around 35,000 times the total energy used by man.

**WHEREAS** Solar energy can be converted into Thermal (heat) energy and be used to Heat water – for use in homes, buildings, or swimming pools, and used to heat to heat spaces.

**WHEREAS** According to renewable energy 'Photovoltaic (PV devices) or “solar cells” – change sunlight directly into electricity. PV systems are often used in remote locations that are not connected to the electric grid. They are also used to power watches, calculators, and lighted road signs.'

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/renewable/solar.html#Solar%20Thermal%20Heat>

**WHEREAS** When the sun goes out we could use a simple system like water pipes surrounded by vacuum, it is based on the concept that provided the pipes are insulated and the water will store thermal energy.

**WHEREAS** Some power plants use a highly curved mirror called a parabolic trough to focus the sunlight on a pipe running down a central point above the curve of the mirror The mirror focuses the sunlight to strike the pipe, and it gets so hot that it can boil the water into steam. The steam can then be used to turn a turbine to make electricity.

**WHEREAS** Shell Oil predicts that by the year 2040, fifty-percent of the world's energy will be supplied by renewable sources.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** We should use solar energy to help us get over our dependency of foreign oils.

**BE IT RESOLVED** 20 percent of Michigan’s energy will be powered by solar energy by the year 2020.

## ***Nuclear Power as an Environmentally Safe Energy Source***

Author: Robert Beam

**WHEREAS** Nuclear Energy produces vast amounts of energy, because it is matter converted into energy. It only takes small amounts of U-235 or Plutonium to provide gig watts cheaply and with no greenhouse gasses emitted. A mass of Uranium isotope 235 is nuclear unstable, meaning nuclear fission can be induced, converting a miniscule amount of mass, particles even, into energy that could power a massive amounts of homes.

**WHEREAS** Energy would be cheaper for domestic use, reducing the cost of energy in households across the United States. It would not take that many nuclear power plants across Michigan to totally fulfill our energy needs. This reduces our dependence on coal, reducing greenhouse gasses.

**WHEREAS** The waste produced from Nuclear Fission is minimal, although difficult to contain. Materials that are leftover after Nuclear Fission emit Alpha, Beta, and Gamma radiation through radioactive decay. The only seriously dangerous radiation is gamma, because it has a high energy, therefore can penetrate through most materials. Alpha and Beta radiation cannot penetrate through thick clothing, so they aren't a concern. Gamma radiation must be contained within lead or cement, and must be quarantined throughout the half-lives of the material. It would be millions of years before the materials were safe again, but all that is required to contain it is a thick layer of cement or lead. The containment cells could be easily repaired over time, until a better solution is reached for the disposal of the material.

**WHEREAS** Nuclear energy is not a permanent solution for our energy needs, because there is a limited amount of the unstable isotopes needed to induce Nuclear Fission, it is not possible to continue using this as a means of power, although Plutonium can be made in particle accelerators. Also, eventually, there will be too much waste. Nuclear energy is just a temporary bridge to Alternative energy sources that would become the permanent solution. There are many sources of clean energy, but they need to be researched and perfected, meanwhile all the coal that is being burnt is releasing greenhouse gasses and contributing to things such as acid rain.

**WHEREAS** The cost of nuclear energy in the household is unbelievably low. It is estimated that nuclear energy will cost about two tenths of a cent per kilowatt-hour. The current cost of energy is around ten cents per kilowatt-hour in Michigan and can be as high as forty cents per kilowatt-hour in places such as California. Due to rising costs in Heating and cooling homes in Michigan, cheaper energy should be a high priority.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan can convert a majority of its energy to Nuclear means within the next decade, and reduce the cost of energy per KWh across the state. Nuclear Power Plants in Michigan could even produce enough power to provide energy to other states.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The state of Michigan reduce its dependency on coal, making a huge step towards clean energy and reducing emissions of Green House Gasses, contributing to the effort to stop Climate Change worldwide.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The switch to nuclear energy will save money for Michigan homes in financial trouble. Rising energy costs are a big concern for families in financial trouble, and Michigan's current economic state could use something to jump-start our economy and give relief to struggling families.

### ***Low Flow Toilets and Showers***

Author: Carolyn Zale

**WHEREAS** Public water supplies systems provide water to homes, schools, and offices, and to industries and businesses that are not self-supplied. Domestic uses in homes include water for drinking, cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, flushing toilets, watering lawns and washing dishes, clothes, and cars. The average Michigan household uses 75 gallons of water per person per day. The average Michigan school uses 15 to 25 gallons of water per student per day.

**WHEREAS** Michigan residents and businesses must report how much water they use.

**WHEREAS** Every day, Americans flush 4.8 billion gallons of water down the toilet

**WHEREAS** The toilet is typically the biggest water consumer in the house.

**WHEREAS** Approximately 41% of indoor water use goes toward flushing and 33% attributed to bathing.

**WHEREAS** Low flush toilets use 1.6 gallons versus the normal 3.5 gallons of water per flush.

**WHEREAS** Data collected on a sample of 1,188 North American single-family homes last year by the American Water Works Association found significantly less water use in homes with low-flush toilets and other conserving fixtures such as low-flow shower heads than in homes without these fixtures.

**WHEREAS** The non-conserving homes used 73 gallons per capita per day, with 20 gallons, or 26 percent of the total, for toilets. The homes with water-conserving fixtures used 50 gallons per capita per day, with 10 gallons, or 20 percent of the total, for toilets.

**WHEREAS** The United States uses about 4.8 billion gallons of water every day to flush waste.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Negotiate with building contractors to mandate low-flow toilets be installed in new buildings, otherwise they will not pass inspection

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan should require every home to switch their regular toilets to low flush in order to make the state more environmentally friendly.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Replacing conventional toilets with low-flow models has the potential to save up to 12,000 gallons a year in a typical household.

**BE IT RESOLVED** In today's economy money is tight, so Michigan should enforce a law to require all households to switch to low flow showers and toilets by 2013. With hybrid cars and low energy products becoming more pervasive, this is a necessary step to a greener environment.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Switching to water-efficient plumbing fixtures could save the average household as much as \$50 to \$100 a year on water and wastewater bills.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Because of the new low-flow toilets, Americans save \$11.3 million everyday on their water bill

**BE IT RESOLVED** Every home, office, school, and other public facility should improve their efforts on 'going green' and install these low-flow facilities.

**BE IT RESOLVED** With a government tax credit, 1.6 gallon-per-flush toilets could be purchased at home centers or plumbing supply stores for under \$100

**BE IT RESOLVED** Another way to conserve water in a home is to make sure that existing faucets and toilets are not leaking.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The low-flow toilets function by increasing flush velocity by either using the force of gravity or pressurizing the flush water. Replacing older fixtures with the new standard can ease the load on the utility while reducing facility costs.

### ***Mandatory Environmental Education in Public Schools***

Authors: Michael Sheffy and Elliott Darvish

**WHEREAS** "Too many students have limited knowledge on our environment and are unaware of the challenges we currently face with regards to keeping our environment safe and clean."

**WHEREAS** Since 1970, temperatures have gone up at nearly three times the average for the 20th century, largely as a result of human behavior.

(<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/globalwarming/index.html?inline=nyt-classifier>)

**WHEREAS** while many people are aware about the world's environmental problems, many do not really understand the implications their actions can have on our planet as a result of inadequate education.

**WHEREAS** The effects of pollution, global warming and other choices we make regarding our environment directly/indirectly affect our health-<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/humanhealth.html>

**WHEREAS** In a typical year, Americans can correctly answer fewer than 25 percent of the basic environmental literacy questions asked.

**WHEREAS** Ways that humans have affected the quality of the Great Lakes region over the centuries include sewage disposal, toxic contamination through heavy metals and pesticides, overdevelopment of the water's edge, runoff from agriculture and urbanization, and air pollution according to the Great Lakes Information Network

**WHEREAS** Michigan's recycling rate is only 20%, a number considerably below the average of 30% in other Great Lakes states and 27% nationwide

**WHEREAS** according to a study made by the State Education & Environment Roundtable, integrating environmental education in the school curriculum raises test scores across all four subjects.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that adding specific environmental education concepts to the Michigan Content Expectations is the best way to mandate environmental education.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the state of Michigan implements the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), which is an environmental education curriculum for grades 4-9. See website for details ([http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307\\_3580\\_29678-148152--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_3580_29678-148152--,00.html)). It's concepts and content would be integrated into the Michigan Content Expectations. The Michigan Content Expectations are the set of requirements that are delivered from the Michigan Department of Education to Michigan schools, that mandate the educational concepts or content that must be included in school curricula.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that high school students will need to participate in an environmental service learning project for a minimum of 5 hours in order to graduate.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the implementation of environmental education will lead to a better understanding of our environment and ultimately result in greater care about the environment by Michigan citizens. The Michigan Department of Education will evaluate the new additions to the content expectations and implement them accordingly.

# **Justice and Security**

## ***Proposal to Have Stricter Standards for Elderly Drivers***

Authors: Melissa Goldberg and Jeff Slawsky

**WHEREAS** License holders in the United Kingdom need to reapply for a driving license on reaching the age of 70 and then every three years thereafter.

**WHEREAS** According to the Federal Highway Administration, mile for mile, the elderly have higher crash rates than any other driving group except teenagers.

**WHEREAS** U.S. Census Bureau projects there will be 9.6 million people 85 and older by 2030, up 73% from today. Road safety analysts predict that by 2030, when all baby boomers are at least 65, they will be responsible for 25% of all fatal crashes. In 2005, 11% of fatal crashes involved drivers that old.

**WHEREAS** The only measure scientifically proven to lower the rate of fatal crashes involving elderly drivers is forcing the seniors to appear at motor vehicle departments in person to renew their licenses, says the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

**WHEREAS** Normal aging causes medical problems that affect driving. Reflexes, flexibility, visual acuity, memory and the ability to focus all decline with age. Medicines that treat various ailments also make it more difficult to focus and make snap decisions.

**WHEREAS** Elderly drivers are less likely than other drivers to be in crashes involving high speeds or alcohol, but they are more likely to crash at intersections where they miss a stop sign or turn left in front of oncoming traffic.

**WHEREAS** People 65 and older make up 12 percent of licensed drivers, are involved in 17 percent of fatal crashes and cause 60 percent of those

**WHEREAS** From ages 75 to 84, the rate of about three deaths per 100 million miles driven is equal to the death rate of teenage drivers.

**WHEREAS** Fourteen states (Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and South Carolina) have accelerated renewal periods for people over a certain age. Colorado requires everyone age 61 and older to renew their license every 5 years as opposed to every 10 years for people under age 61. Illinois has a 4-year renewal period, but the period shortens to 2 years if the driver is between the ages of 81 and 86, and then to 1 year if the driver is age 87 or older.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Starting at age 70, and every 3 years following, drivers need to reapply for their license, along with a vision and driving exam.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Insurance companies can do periodic testing, at their discretion, to determine if a person is not physically or mentally capable of driving.

**BE IT RESOLVED** AARP offers a Driver Safety Program at sites around the country and online, which is an eight-hour class for drivers 50 and older that deals with the effects of aging on driving. At age 50, there should be a required test to measure physical aspects that can result to poor driving, and if they fail they need to take this course.

## ***The State of Michigan's "Minor in Possession" (MIP) Law Should Be Changed***

Author: Amanda Rosenhaus

**WHEREAS** As of April 2004, Governor Granholm signed an act giving Michigan one of the strictest/strongest Minor in Possession laws in the country. This law has been in effect since September of '04

**WHEREAS** The first-time offender punishment for drinking underage goes on one's record as a misdemeanor if the violator does not complete probation requirements

**WHEREAS** Michigan's Minor in Possession law does not simply include the physical possession of alcoholic beverages, but prohibits "any bodily alcohol content" whatsoever, so a person can now be given an MIP on the basis of his or her Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)

**WHEREAS** Police at local on-campus hospitals are encouraged to assign MIPs to underage college students who have alcohol poisoning and are brought in by their friends because they need serious medical attention

**WHEREAS** Police at local on-campus hospitals also breathalyzer the friends who bring in students in need of medical attention, even if such friends do not appear to be inebriated. Police are able to do this because no warrant is required to Breathalyzer the friends; they do so simply because they are with others who are intoxicated.

**WHEREAS** The possibility of receiving an MIP is so great that the friends of an overly intoxicated underage individual might prefer to not take him or her to the hospital if it means having a misdemeanor on their records

**WHEREAS** Friends of an intoxicated individual realize that taking the person to the hospital means that the person in question would receive an MIP and would be angry about it the next morning, feeling that he or she had no say in the matter and is now forced to deal with having a misdemeanor on his or her record

**WHEREAS** Opting to NOT take a sick individual to the hospital for fear of receiving an MIP can be dangerous and potentially life threatening

**WHEREAS** Drunken college students dealing with a very sick person might not be in the right frame of mind to decide whether it is appropriate and/or necessary to take their friend to the hospital, and the potential threat of receiving an MIP might strongly deter them from doing the right thing

**WHEREAS** First offense: Most first-time offenders are eligible for a diversion program. If the program were adequately completed, the underage drinking charges would be dismissed without being placed on a criminal record. If the program is not completed, the offender receives a misdemeanor on his or her record. Second offense: Second time offenders are not eligible for the diversion process. However, our ultimate goal is to preserve the individual's criminal record. We evaluate the circumstances, why the individual was interrogated, asked to take a breath test, or searched. We evaluate probable cause and strive to negotiate a favorable outcome. Third offense: A third offense conviction could result in incarceration. We investigate and challenge prior offenses and strive to negotiate a reduced sentence or dismissed charges.

<http://www.centralmichiganattorney.com/PracticeAreas/Minors-In-Possession-MIP.asp>

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Police and/or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) should not Breathalyzer intoxicated individuals who are brought into the hospital to receive emergency medical attention

**BE IT RESOLVED** Although the MIP law in the state of Michigan is one of the strictest in this country, this resolution does not attempt to change the nature of it. Rather, this resolution is an attempt to encourage people, regardless of their age, to seek the appropriate medical attention in emergency situations

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 4,554 underage deaths each year are due to excessive alcohol use. These deaths can be prevented if underage drinkers take their overly intoxicated friends to the hospital to receive help.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Governor Granholm needs to recognize that, by allowing hospital officers to breathalyzer patients and assign MIPs to people who come through the doors of the hospital, inebriated underage drinkers are discouraged to seek help for their friends in need. This could lead to deaths.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Unfortunately, the strict MIP laws in this state are not discouraging underage kids to drink. Students on college campuses are going to drink anyway. All this law is doing is preventing them from seeking medical attention when it is necessary for them to do so.

### ***Mandatory Drivers Test and Screening for Senior Citizens***

Authors: Stefanie Licavoli and Michael Shulman

**WHEREAS** On a per capita basis (per 100,000 population) people age 65 and over are more likely to be killed in motor vehicle crashes than any other age group with the exception of people age 16-24.

**WHEREAS** The number of elderly drivers suffering from dementia are reaching record levels, has more than doubled from a generation ago and the report estimates it will hit 100,000 by 2028 as the population ages, based on census data, driving statistics, and dementia projections.

**WHEREAS** The risk of crash involvement per mile driven rises dramatically after the age of 70.

**WHEREAS** Some causes for concern of elderly drivers include poor vision, poor hearing, poor flexibility, limited range of motion, and reduced reaction time.

**WHEREAS** With regard to vision, the lens of the eye becomes progressively cloudy and yellow white age, giving faulty information to use for decisions made while driving. Additionally, with age people also lose depth perception and peripheral vision, which affect the ability to judge distance and speed.

**WHEREAS** Reaction times change with age and it takes a 20-year-old three-quarters of a second to react and brake. It takes an older driver up to 1.5 seconds because of chemical changes in the brain. Chemical changes in the brain cause us to lose six percent of the chemical connections in the brain per decade, beginning at age 20.

**WHEREAS** Fourteen states (Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and South Carolina) have accelerated renewal periods for people over a certain age. These periods can vary widely. For example, Colorado requires everyone age 61 and older to renew their license every 5 years as opposed to every 10 years for people under age 61. Illinois has a 4-year renewal period, but the period shortens to 2 years if the driver is between the ages of 81 and 86, and then to 1 year if the driver is age 87 or older.

**WHEREAS** Six states (Florida, Maine, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia require elderly drivers to take a vision test when renewing a license. Another way states monitor older drivers are by not allowing drivers over a certain age to renew their licenses by mail. Five states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Louisiana, and Montana) restrict mail renewals. Finally, two states (Illinois and New Hampshire) require a road test if the driver is 75 years old or older.

**WHEREAS** Elderly drivers cause as many accidents as teenagers who have just passed their tests due to slower reaction times, and failing eyesight.

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** Michigan implement a law requiring senior citizens to renew their driving license every three years beginning at age 60.

**BE IT RESOLVED** If a driver does not pass the exam their license will be suspended until they complete an education program consisting of classroom and on road training that could enhance driving performance.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The test will evaluate the driver's cognitive ability to recall driving laws and procedures, a vision test, and an on-road evaluation.

**BE IT RESOLVED** There will be a video game program that will help elderly drivers. People, ages 50 to 75 could benefit from using this new program to increase brain skills, such as reaction time and memory. Therefore, it may help improve their driving skills, improve their attention, and improve their visual skills.

**BE IT RESOLVED** The software points out how vision may be evaluated in your left and right quadrants. The video game makes you able to react quicker because your field of vision has improved and your cognitive ability and ability to process what's happening in front of you has improved via the exercise

**BE IT RESOLVED** Mail renewal not available to people 70 and older and to people whose prior license renewal was by mail.

**BE IT RESOLVED** People often take more medications as they age. Certain medications can increase driving risk. The elderly need to be careful about medication side effects and interactions between medications.

**BE IT RESOLVED** Offering services in private automobiles 24 hours, seven days a week. The system allows seniors to stay active and involved in their communities by driving them to and from classes, group gatherings, doctors appointments, grocery shopping, visits to the salon, and even dates.

## **Service Proposals**

**Donate Toys to Children in Need** - Initiated by Randi Botwinick

**Donate to a Michigan Food Bank** -Initiated by Victoria Shapiro

**Earth Hour** - Initiated by Melissa Goldberg

**Blanket Drive for the Homeless** - Initiated by Jared A. Siegel

**Wii With Seniors!** - Initiated by Hayley Cowitt

**Save the Water** - Initiated by Kevin Kelly