

Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate Growing, Preparing for November Ballot

While the State Board of Canvassers today certified that there are enough valid petition signatures to ask for a vote on a statutory education spending mandate, the coalition opposed to the proposal announced it has tripled in size. The Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate, first formed in February with 15 organizations, has now grown to include 45 statewide organizations including taxpayer, local government, law enforcement, healthcare, and human service organizations. At the same time, the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future is shrinking due to lack of support.

"It is clear to Michigan State Police Troopers that this proposal is bad public policy and is wrong for Michigan," said Matt Wesaw, Government Affairs Director of the Michigan State Troopers Association of Michigan. "The Troopers joined the Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate because if this proposal passes citizens could see drastic cuts in state funding of law enforcement and other critical services," added Wesaw.

The Michigan Education Association is leading an effort to provide a guaranteed spending mandate for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and state public universities. The non-partisan House Fiscal Agency has estimated that this proposal would cost state government approximately \$1.1 billion above current spending on education -- in the first year alone.

If the Legislature approves the proposal, it becomes law. If the Legislature rejects the proposal over the next 40 days, the proposal will go before voters on the November 2006 ballot. The Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate is urging the Legislature and voters to reject the spending mandate, and for educators to drop their support for the spending mandate.

"Our polling shows that once people understand the extraordinary cost of this spending mandate, the threats to critical services and their wallets, support plummets," said Bill Martin, CEO for the Michigan Association of Realtors. "It would be irresponsible to put this spending on auto-pilot with no accountability to taxpayers. This plan would have a negative impact on Michigan's economy and should be rejected."

"The number and range of groups who are opposed to this plan says a lot about how devastating this proposal would be," added Wesaw. "This coalition is committed to defeating this ill-conceived plan," concluded Wesaw.

The Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate today announced it has hired Marketing Resource Group, a Lansing-based firm with a 100 percent track record of defeating this type of proposal, to provide campaign and coalition services.

For more information on the K-16 spending proposal, visit the Web site of the Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate at <http://www.stopthespendingmandate.com/>.

Members Of the Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate
(AS OF 6/05/06)

Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce
Brandt Coultas, (734) 214-0101

Conference of Western Wayne
Helen Foster, (734) 953-8834

Concerned Taxpayers Group of Livingston County
Bill Johnston, (517) 546-4642

Detroit Regional Chamber
Sarah Hubbard, (517) 372-2278

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Jared Rodriguez, (616) 771-0359

Health Care Association of Michigan
Kim Ringlever, (517) 627-1561

Kalamazoo County Taxpayers Association
Isaac Morehouse, (269) 778-9177

Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Marty Dodge, (269) 381-4000

Life Insurance Association of Michigan
Larry Kish, (517) 482-7058

Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Ervin Portis (517) 788-4127

MI Assoc of Community Mental Health Boards
Scott Dzurka, (517) 374-6848

Michigan Association of Counties
Tom Hickson, (517) 372-5374

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Dan Hagen, (989) 213-6641

Michigan Association of Health Plans
Christine Shearer, (517) 371-3181

Michigan Association of Home Builders
Dawn Crandall, (517) 322-0224

Michigan Association for Local Public Health
Mark Bertler, 485-0660

Michigan Association of Police Organizations
Richard Weiler, (248) 524-3200

Michigan Association of REALTORS®
Bill Martin, (517) 372-8890

Michigan Business & Professional Association
Bonnie Bochniak, (517) 374-9128

Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Tricia Kinley, (517) 371-7669

Michigan County Social Services Association
Mel Hagan, (517) 371-5303

The Michigan Food & Beverage Association
Bonnie Bochniak, (517) 374-9128

Michigan Grocers Association
Linda Gobler, (517) 372-6800

Michigan Health & Hospital Association
David Finkbeiner, (517) 703-8601

Michigan Licensed Beverage Association
Lance Binoniemi, (517) 374-9611

Michigan Catholic Conference
Paul Long, (517) 372-9310

Michigan Distributors And Vendors Association
Polly Reber, (517) 372-2323

Michigan Municipal League
Arnold Weinfeld, (517) 485-1314

Michigan Oil And Gas Association
Frank Mortl, (517) 487-1092

Michigan Osteopathic Association
Doug Borruso, (517) 347-1555

Michigan Railroads Association
Robert Chaprnka, 482-9413

Michigan Restaurant Association
Andy Deloney, (517) 377-3931

Michigan Retailers Association
Eric Rule, (517) 372-5656

Michigan Soft Drink Association
Bill Lobenherz, (517) 371-4499

Michigan State Police Command Officers Association

Diane Garrison, (517) 974-2266

Michigan State Police Troopers Association
Matt Wesaw, (517) 336-7782

Michigan State Police Troopers Association Retirees
Matt Wesaw, (517) 336-7782

Michigan Townships Association
David Bertram, (517) 321-6467

Midland Area Chamber of Commerce
Sid Allen, (989) 839-9522

Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce
Jim Kostrava, (989) 772-2396

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce
Fran Toney, (734) 453-1540

Police Officers Association of Michigan
Ken Grabowski, (313) 937-9000

Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan
KC Steckelberg, 334-6060

Small Business Association of Michigan
Paul Bukowski, (517) 482-8788

Wayne County Taxpayers Association
Rose Bogaert, (313) 278-8383

Paid for by the Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate with regulated funds, 600 S. Walnut St., Lansing, MI 48933.
Contributions not eligible for charitable deductions on federal tax returns.

SOURCE: Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate

CONTACT: Dave Doyle of Marketing Resource Group, +1-517-372-4400, for
Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate

Web site: <http://www.stopthespendingmandate.com/>

<https://michamber.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19845&item=39646>