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To MHousing Administration,

We, the ResStaff Allied Organization (RAO) and concerned parties, are writing this letter with deep concern regarding unilateral changes to MHousing policy this academic year. Specifically, the complete ban of all door decorations, set to be enforced May 6th. This abrupt and unnecessary restriction functions as a direct **suppression of our ability to express ourselves, build community, and foster dialogue within our shared living spaces.**

The new policy explicitly prohibits residents from displaying anything on dorm doors, including posters, whiteboards, art, or signs. **This change marks a stark departure from decades (if not centuries) of status quo policy**, which gave residents freedom over their own doors for personal expression. Instead of fostering a community of open communication, this policy silences residents in their own homes and restricts expressions of personal identity.

For years, dorm doors have served as more than just an entrance to our rooms, they have been a canvas for creativity, cultural expression, social connection and advocacy. Whether through personal artwork, interactive activities, messages of solidarity, or representations of identity, these **decorations have played a vital role in shaping the inclusive and vibrant residential experience** that MHousing has long claimed to champion. **To suddenly erase this tradition without meaningful consultation of ResStaff or residents is undemocratic and deeply concerning.**

While citing vandalism as a pretense for this policy decision, racist vandalism plagued residence halls for decades; MHousing has long been unable to substantively address it. Instead of engaging in restorative practices or genuine accountability for vandalizers and harassers, MHousing has suddenly realized it has known the solution the entire time: **cleanse residence halls of any dialogue, expression, or life.**

The new policy comes amid a backdrop of numerous **authoritarian policy changes and punitive actions** from MHousing. Since November, Michigan Housing has:

1. **Terminated and evicted** three RAs (two RAs only days before finals) over first-time policy violations;
2. **Revoked ResStaff autonomy** over residence hall bulletin boards;
3. **Fast-tracked a neutrality policy** for all ResStaff programming;
4. **Unilaterally revised DEI**, removing all mentions of “equity”, “social justice”, and “educational programming” from ResStaff expectations;
5. **Altered the multicultural lounge use policy**, making student organization programming increasingly more difficult.

We demand MHousing to **immediately retract this expression ban**, and commit to shared governance of residential life.

Sincerely,

ResStaff Allied Organization at U-M

MLC / Housing Organization Signatories:

Mary Markley Multicultural Council
North Quad Multicultural Council
Bursley Multicultural Council
Baits II Multicultural Council
Global Scholars Student Organization

Student Organization Signatories:

Students Allied for Freedom and Equality
United Asian American Organization
United Students Against Sweatshops
Bangladeshi Student Association
Jewish Voice for Peace
WCBN FM Executive Board
The Every Three Weekly

Individual Signatories:

Mark Tallents, ResStaff
Kyla Kralapp, ResStaff
Pranav Desurkar, ResStaff
Ammar Ahmad, Student (fmr. ResStaff)
Assmaa Eidy, Student
Hiab Teshome, Student
Vincent Orza, Student
Katarina Keating, Student
Dylan Cohen, Student
Tomilade Akinyelu, ResStaff
Lucas Navia, ResStaff
Erek Mirque, ResStaff
West Quad Diversity Peer Educator
Therese Campos, Student
Marisa Lucero, Resident
Cielo Jimenez, ResStaff
Haneen Tout, Staff
Paige Smith, Resident
Megan Huber, ResStaff
Nathan Newman, ResStaff
Abigail Dziedzic, ResStaff
Sadia Haidari, ResStaff

Atishay Kumar, ResStaff
Tran Anh Nguyen, Staff
Alyssa Schams, Student
Kendall Coleman, ResStaff
Anonymous, Student
Andy Brosius, Staff
Lily Roof, Student
Abigail O'Connell, Student
Stella Moore, Student
University of Michigan Library Faculty
Sara Olmsted, Student
Maya Glenn, Student
Adesewa Ojo, ResStaff
Giana Maniaci, Student
Natasha Abner, Faculty
Shiloh Hedgecock, Student
Cass Brimer, Student
Megan Major, Student
Hera Akmal, Student
Nia Hall, Student
Heather Mcneilly, Student
Akhil M, Student
Erin Proctor, Resident
Bryndís Davis, Student
Linda Morfa, Resident
Nathan Kim, Student
Eugene Kim, Student
Max Lahn, Student
Andrew Lee, Other
Rhea Chappell, Student
Aminata Ndiaye, ResStaff
Rita Kwan-Hang Lee, Staff
Cameron Yaxley, Staff
Iris Ruffing, Student
Nathan Parr, Resident
Lute Smith, Student
Shereen Thomas, Student
Holden Hughes, Student
Abigail Stochmal, Student
Hailey G, Resident
Aaron Stark, Staff
Anonymous, Staff
Brian Schmidt, Staff
Tanner Gritzmaker, Student
Jeff Smith, Staff
Anonymous ResEd Staff, Staff

Stephanie Collier, Staff
Spandy Sharma, Resident
Luke Pauer, ResStaff
William Draper, Resident
Rain Lemieux, Resident
Lucien Meloche, Resident
Avery Fern, Other
Marissa Ewald, Student
Kaitlin Karmen, Student
Cassandra Reece, Resident
Mary Dorsey, Resident
Laura Lemerond, Resident
Claire Oshima, Resident
Neva Rognes, Resident
Sagan Barber, Resident
Kai Carter, Resident
James M. Zumel Dumlao, Student
Lila Kelly, Resident
Felipe Coimbra Moretti, Student
Elizabeth Simons, ResStaff
Varun Kaushik, Resident
Sofia Christine Klein, Resident
Grace Viscito, Student
Henry Barron, ResStaff
Easton Rem, ResStaff
Alex Vujnov, ResStaff
Aderola Owaduge, ResStaff
David Zeglen, Faculty
Todd Ziegler, Staff
Alison Kisiel, Student
Yeslin Amarante, ResStaff
Ayesha Saleem, Resident
Kolten Gusman, ResStaff
Umana Ahmed, ResStaff
Srinithi Kanakam, ResStaff
Sarah Rodriguez, ResStaff
Jonathan Holland, ResStaff
Julius S, Resident
William Patrick, Staff
Matthew Sestak, Staff
Kevin Zheng, Student
Shreya Chowdhary, Student
Kathleen Brown, Student
Mishal Charania, ResStaff
Nicole Espinosa, Student
Sarah Lim, Resident

Kaitlyn Baldry, Resident
Brooklyn Herring, Student
Mykola Kryzhan, Resident
Zania Lane, Resident
Isabella Santana, Resident
Alifa Chowdhury, Student
Alan Vellenga, Resident
Anon ResStaff member, ResStaff
Kiran Koul, Resident
Cole Doyle, ResStaff
Bryce Sayles, Resident
Allison Voto, Resident
Anon Resident, Resident
Kyra Chung-Olagbaiye, Resident
Jennifer Enkhbaatar, Resident
Wendy Huang, Resident
Amonya Woods, Resident
Caroline Reiss, Resident
Jovanna Gallegos, Resident
Daniella Acosta, Student
Daniel Birchok, Faculty
Ana Cano, Resident
Oliver Kozler, Student
Henry David Mackeen-Shapiro, Student
Giada Pawlowski, Bursley Multicultural Council, Resident
Laine Ostheimer, Bursley Multicultural Council, Resident
Esmirna Anguiano, Bursley Multicultural Council, Resident
Joanne Koulet Vickot, Bursley Multicultural Council, Resident
Simon Nigam, Resident
Philip Murdock, Resident
Dominick Noeker, Resident
Brianna Jarvis, Resident
Oliver Satola, Student
Willow Traylor, Resident
Sarah McKendall, Resident
Hailey K, Student
Lija Sverns, Resident
Jeremiah Harmon, Resident
Ripley Moody, Resident
Andrea Bustillo, Resident
Daniella Kasper, Student
Drew Stephayn, ResStaff
Elizabeth Ng, Resident
Maura Hunt, Resident
Belen Fuentes, Resident
Asanti Tarekegn, Resident

Kaitlyn Higbee, Resident
Gabrielle Gray, Resident
Carly Sharp
Tony Liu, Student
Carli Mulvihill, Student
Alyssa Hall, Resident
Thomas Besek, Resident
Jibreel Rehman, Resident
Camilla Easlick, Resident
Kyle Gleason, Resident
Ren Kosiorowski, Resident
Elan Ronen, Resident
Shaun Zoerner, Resident
Adrian Lamble, Staff
JP Pledger, Resident
Kate Stienstra, ResStaff
Abi Middaugh, ResStaff
Sola, Resident
Mila Croad, Resident
Kyra Burger, Student
Isabella Crow, Student
Marcela Passos, Student
Luke Herberger, ResStaff
Andy Brosius, Staff