

5/21

SB 751 is a school aid appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including student loan repayment assistance, Great Start Readiness Program, per-pupil mental health support, school safety grants, and literacy support. **SB 751** passed 56-51.

SB 753 is a community college appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including an overall increase in funding and a local heroes program to increase the number of dual enrolled high school students and encourage pursuit of a career in education or public safety. **SB 753** passed 56-51.

SB 760 is a general government appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. These appropriations go toward the Executive Office, the Legislature, the Auditor General, the Departments of Attorney General, Civil Rights, State, Technology, Management, and Budget, and Treasury. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including funding for

- A payroll fraud enforcement unit
- Utility consumer representation in rate cases
- Civil rights complaint investigations
- Expanding voter access
- Public safety recruitment

SB 760 passed 56-51.

SB 766 is a labor and economic opportunity appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including funding for

- Arts and culture grants
- Community development
- A new Community and Worker Economic Transition Office
- Voluntary income tax assistance grants
- Housing and rental assistance
- Tech innovation hubs

SB 766 passed 56-51.

SB 767 is a health and human services appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including funding for

- Medicaid
- Housing assistance
- United Way's 2-1-1 service
- Kids Food Basket
- Diaper assistance grants
- Volunteer income tax assistance

- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Foster care services
- Temporary Assistance for needy families
- Michigan Energy Assistance Program
- Water affordability
- Local food pantries
- Elder law services
- Disability independent living pilot program
- Food desert pilot program
- Certified community behavioral health clinics
- Autism services
- Michigan Crisis and Access Line
- Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund
- Compulsive Gaming Prevention Fund
- Oral health assessments for children
- Sexual assault victim services
- Community violence prevention grant program
- Medically underserved pharmaceutical access stabilization program
- Suicide Prevention Office
- Maternal and infant health
 - Medicaid doula care
- Senior nutrition services
- Hospital peer support substance use disorder services
- Long-term direct-care worker wages
- Medicaid mental health reimbursements for school services

SB 767 passed 56-51.

SB 748 is a lifelong education, advancement, and potential appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2024-2025. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including funding for the following:

- Child care provider rate increase
- Office of Great Start Operations
- Child development and care
- Child care centers drinking water quality
- Parental engagement pilot program
- Student financial assistance program
- Family childcare network support
- College outreach program
- Youth mentorship
- Childcare worker subsidy pilot program

SB 748 passed 56-51.

SB 752 is a higher education appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- University operations increase
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Postsecondary Scholarship Fund
- Tuition Incentive Program
- Children of Veterans and Officer's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Michigan Reconnect Program
- Infrastructure, technology, maintenance, and safety
- FAFSA Completion Incentive
- Small business development centers

SB 752 passed 56-51.

SB 756 is a corrections appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- Prisoner healthcare services
- Medication assisted treatment
- Reentry services
- Breast milk program
 - For recent birth mothers in prison to provide breast milk to their newborns
- Mental health crisis intervention training

SB 756 passed 56-51.

SB 757 is a judiciary appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- Statewide case management system
- Appellate indigent defense workload standards
- Judicial security
- Drug treatment courts
- Juvenile indigent defense grants

SB 757 passed 56-51.

SB 758 is an agriculture and rural development appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- Identifying, responding to, and mitigating emerging contaminants affecting agriculture and related food industries
- Soil health and regenerative agriculture
- Local conservation districts
- Farm to Family Program
 - Supports regenerative farming, agriculture, supply chain, and the promotion of Michigan food products

- Fair Food Network - Double Up Food Bucks
- Food and agriculture supply chain investments
- County fairs, shows, and expositions
- Minority-owned food and agriculture ventures

SB 758 passed 56-51.

SB 759 is a natural resources appropriation bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- Land and water conservation
- Cultural resource management
 - Supports departmental archaeological operations and manages identification, treatment, and disposition of Native American cultural items
- Wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition
- Flood insurance pilot program
- Mass timber market development
- Sportsmen Against Hunger program
- American chestnut restoration initiative
 - Assists the migration of American chestnut or other species to adapt the state's forests to climate change

SB 759 passed 56-51.

SB 761 is a transportation appropriation bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including funding for the following:

- Infrastructure projects
- Transportation planning services
- Design and engineering services
- Priority bridge investments
- Transportation Economic Development Fund
- Local bus operations
- Transit innovation grants
- Rail operations and infrastructure
- Marine passenger services
- Airport improvement program

SB 761 passed 56-51.

SB 762 is a military and veterans affairs appropriation bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- Veteran Homes Operating Expenses
- Veteran Homelessness Grants
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs retirement benefits
- National Guard soldier referral program

- National Guard facilities services

SB 762 passed 56-51.

SB 763 is a state police appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- Law enforcement training, recruitment, and retention grants
- Security upgrades for the Capitol building
- Law enforcement language barrier training
- Intelligence operations and software licensing

SB 763 passed 56-51.

SB 764 is a licensing and regulatory affairs appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- Michigan Indigent Defense Council Grants
- Increased funding for the Public Service Commission to implement the clean energy package
- 5-year energy waste reduction and demand response study
- Increased access to smoke detectors
- Increased oversight of nursing homes

SB 764 passed 56-51.

SB 765 is an insurance and financial services appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- Additional funds for customer care service for auto accident survivors
- Auto insurance reform study
- Study on how to increase access to insulin

SB 765 passed 56-51.

SB 768 is an environment, great lakes, and energy appropriation bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments, including the following:

- Lead line replacement
- Clean fuel and charging infrastructure
- Local water infrastructure projects
- Grants to local governments for stormwater projects that mitigate climate change
- Drinking water filtration devices for schools and childcare centers
- Matching funds for the remediation of contaminated sediment front he Detroit River Area of Concern

SB 768 passed 56-51.

SB 769 is a department of education appropriations bill for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted in favor of this bill because it contains several critical investments including:

- Summer EBT Food Benefits
- Mental Health Technical Support
- School infrastructure
- Career and technical education programs
- School board member training
- Community Health Worker Career Center
- Charter school transparency database

SB 769 passed 56-51.

HB 5429 codifies the court-appointed special advocate (“CASA”) program. I voted in favor of this bill because it will standardize the current CASA programs in Michigan and ensure every CASA volunteer receives the uniform training needed to support vulnerable children. It also provides certainty and continuity concerning the existence and funding of CASA programs. **HB 5429** passed 97-10.

SBs 225-226 & HBs 4186 & 4188 are part of an asbestos abatement package. Collectively, the package requires public entities to ensure that asbestos abatement contractors do not have criminal convictions related to environmental non-compliance; requires the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to report on the adequacy of asbestos inspector staffing; allows the EGLE to charge inspection fees; and prohibits overly large reductions of penalties for asbestos related violations. I voted in favor of both bills because they provide needed transparency around asbestos abatement and ensure that repeat offenders are held accountable. **SB 225** passed 78-29. **SB 226 & HB 4186** passed 68-39. **HB 4188** passed 56-51.

HBs 4675 and 4679 amend the Land Bank Fast Track Act and the Revenue Bond Act, respectively, to exempt community land banks from local user fees. I voted in favor of both bills because land banks are an essential component to continuing to develop the state, and they should not be punished with additional costs for maintaining un-owned property. The clarification within this package is necessary to ensure these land banks are not burdened by excessive taxes and fees which could accrue on these properties while they are waiting to be redeveloped. Land banks do not have a consistent revenue stream, and so this legislation ensures that they are not held accountable for costs that could inhibit their ability to redevelop our communities. Both bills passed 58-49.

HB 5127 amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow an honorably discharged partially disabled veteran to receive a disabled veteran specialty vehicle license plate. I voted in favor of this bill because it gives recognition to and fittingly expands the special registration plate to honorably discharged partially disabled veterans. **HB 5127** passed 103-4.

HBs 4579, 4213, 4131 are part of a telemedicine package. **HB 4579** requires insurers to provide the same coverage for a service provided through telemedicine as if the service

involved face-to-face contact between the health care professional and the patient. **HB 4213** makes several changes to telemedicine coverage under the Medicaid and Healthy Michigan programs. **HB 4131** prohibits insurers from requiring a recipient to use telemedicine service in lieu of in-person consultation or contact. I voted in favor of these bills because among the many benefits of telehealth, is the convenience of care, increased access, and decreased costs. The bills ensure that insurers provide the same coverage for these services as if a patient had face-to-face contact with providers. It also ensures that patients have the option to see a health provider in person. **HB 4213** also updates Medicaid provisions around patients receiving health care services in places other than originating sites, such as their homes and schools. These types of restrictions impede some aspects of telemedicine's growth and have a negative impact on access to healthcare, especially for people living in rural or underserved areas and especially in light of what was learned through the COVID-19 global pandemic. All of the bills passed 98-9.

5/22

HBs 5499-17 and 5556 comprise the House versions of the State budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. I voted against all of the bills as part of the next step in the budget reconciliation process to trigger the formation of a conference committee between the House and the Senate. This vote was merely a process vote, therefore all bills were voted down.

SB 691 modifies the accounting provisions for agricultural commodity boards. I voted in favor of this bill because it will relieve some auditing requirements for funds collected by commodity groups. The bill will ensure financial soundness and compliance with generally accepted accounting standards. Further, the commodity boards spend thousands of dollars per audit, which consumes a large portion of their budgets. The funds could be better spent on conducting research, promotions, or grants to producers. **SB 691** passed unanimously.

SB 744 would allow an effective rating on an evaluation and non-consecutive ratings to count toward a teacher's tenure. I voted in favor of this bill because this technical fix is necessary to ensure that the changes in the teacher evaluation process from earlier reforms are properly executed and there is no confusion. **SB 744** passed 56-47.

HBs 5231-34 & 5569 are part of a charter school transparency package. The bills add transparency measures regarding the publicization of authorizer and education management organization affiliation on promotional materials, financial disclosure requirements, and certain board requirements for all types of charter schools. I voted in favor of all of the bills in this package because they are a nonpunitive, common-sense first step toward bringing charter school academies in line with public school transparency standards. Not only would these new provisions increase both transparency and accountability for charters, but they have been collaboratively written with the charters themselves to ensure they are not being held to an unfair standard compared to the standards to which other schools are held. The results of this package will include better informed parents and students; increased awareness and understanding of charter school operations; and more accessible financial information for prospective teachers. All of the bills passed 56-47.

5/23

HB 5460 would permit installment sale contracts for new motor vehicles to include installment payments in unequal amounts. I voted in favor of this bill because it provides more flexibility to consumers to start with lower or higher installment payments and then transition into other payment amounts as necessary for their current and projected financial ability. This is an option, not a requirement, and Michigan is one of few states that does not allow this option. **HB 5460** passed 80-27.

6/4

HBs 5223-24 expand the statutory provision that provides enhanced penalties for a moving violation that causes injury to a “vulnerable roadway user.” The package expands protections to pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals using a wheelchair or riding or operating a vulnerable transportation device. I voted in favor of both bills because they are designed to align Michigan law with federal guidelines and rules intended to reduce the number of fatal crashes between motorized vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. **HB 5223** passed 79-29. **HB 5224** passed 78-30.

6/11

SB 498 requires foster care review boards to notify tribal governments when reviewing a change in placement in cases involving tribal children. I voted in favor of this bill because it ensures that tribal children remain connected with their communities and culture and that foster care review boards are working effectively with tribal governments to best serve tribal children. **SB 498** passed 90-19.

SB 690 will update the Michigan Code of Military Justice (MCMJ) to better align with federal law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). I voted in favor of this bill because it is important that the MCMJ match as closely as possible to the UCMJ. **SB 690** passed 104-5.

HBs 5043-44 are part of a package that addresses medical certification of death records. **HB 5043** revises the process for medical certification of a death record. **HB 5044** revises the circumstances that require a county medical examiner or deputy county medical examiner to investigate the cause and manner of death of an individual. I voted in favor of both bills because Michigan, like other states, experienced a backlog of death certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Death certificates are essential documents that loved ones need to wrap up end-of-life affairs, such as filing for insurance, planning a decedent's funeral and burial, accessing other essential documents, and, if nothing else, for closure. Both bills passed 105-4.

HB 5737 would amend multiple sections of NREPA to allow individuals with developmental disabilities to continue in mentor and apprentice programs beyond the current age restriction of the programs. I voted in favor of this bill because it will allow for families to enjoy the activity of hunting together and allows for a community to continue an activity they love. **HB 5737** passed unanimously.

HB 5393 extends the maximum term on the consent calendar for a juvenile from 3 months to 6 months unless a court determines a longer period is needed. I voted in favor of this bill because the courts need to have a 6-month time period for the juvenile “consent calendar” and this bill was requested by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). Lastly, it was a technical glitch that this 6-month time period was not included in the Justice for Kids and Community Package recently signed into law. **HB 5393** passed 56-53.

SB 682 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to set a 15 mph speed limit for individuals operating vehicles on highways or streets and 10 mph in business districts that are closed to nonemergency motor vehicles. The bill is intended to allow E-Bikes on Mackinac Island. I voted in favor of this bill because it would allow local authorities to enforce speed limits for allowable vehicles properly. **SB 682** passed 65-44.

HBs 5379 and 5747 amend the Motor Carrier Fuel Tax Act of 1980 and the Michigan Highway Reciprocity Act of 1960 to allow for expanded International Fuel Tax Agreements, IFTA's, of 50 miles instead of 30 miles from the state border. I voted in favor of this bill because it will maintain the intent of Public Acts 24-26 of 2022, which is to lessen the administrative burdens on log trucks operating within 30 air miles of the border and to rectify the interpretation of this air mile limitation that inadvertently results in the exclusion of the Billerud mill in Escanaba, which is a major Upper Peninsula employer and destination for raw forest products for both Wisconsin and Michigan. **HB 5379** passed 100-9. **HB 5747** passed 99-10.

6/12

HBs 5030-32 each amend the State Housing Development Authority Act to modify provisions related to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), particularly those related to the maximum cancellation prices of notes or bonds purchased by the authority, conflicts of interest of certain members of the authority, and the sales price limit for certain housing loans. I voted in favor of all of the bills in this package because these changes will ultimately assist in securing more housing for Michiganders, particularly first time home-buyers. By raising the current fixed sales price limits for Michigan to a calculated formula, we would increase the volume and size of MSHDA loans allowing them to approve use for a larger share of the state population. Additionally, this effort will assist in keeping young Michiganders in Michigan. **HB 5030** passed 59-49. **HB 5031** passed 56-53. **HB 5032** passed 60-48.

SB 702 increases the number of training hours required for cosmetology instructor, manicurist, and esthetician licenses to comply with a recent federal rule change regarding federal financial aid eligibility. I voted in favor of this bill because this change is necessary to ensure students continue receiving adequate training while maintaining eligibility and access to financial assistance for the entirety of their education. **SB 702** passed 93-16.

SB 465 would prohibit vehicles from following a snowplow more closely than 200 feet. I voted in favor of this bill because requiring cars to remain a certain distance behind snowplows is a matter of safety for vehicle drivers who are more likely to be seriously injured in a snow plow

collision. Thus, the bill is intended to allow more time for drivers to stop and reduce crashes. **SB 465** passed 80-29.

SB 251 amends the Motor Bus Transport Act of 1982 to remove outdated state requirements for buses to align Michigan law with federal law. I voted in favor of this bill because it will bring Michigan into compliance with the federal code, which supersedes state statute on interstate commerce. **SB 251** passed unanimously.

SB 417 amends the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Act (MSHDA Act) 1966 PA 346 to expand certain parameters surrounding rehabilitation and loaned projects for qualified assisted living facilities and multi-family housing. I voted in favor of this bill because given the increasing costs of housing and development, the aging population of the state, and growing demands placed upon MSHDA, this bill allows the state to more easily pursue larger projects and more aggressively tackle the burgeoning housing crisis facing Michiganders. **SB 417** passed 58-51.

HBs 5569-70 prohibit and provide civil and criminal penalties for the creation and dissemination of deep fake sexual images. I voted in favor of both bills because they will be a deterrent to people disseminating nonconsensual sexual deep fakes, which disproportionately impact women. Both bills passed 108-2.

HB 4427 amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), allowing incarcerated individuals to receive a copy of certain public records that reference them or their minor child under certain circumstances. I voted in favor of this bill because individuals should have access to public records that reference them specifically whether they are incarcerated or not. Michigan is one of a handful of states that expressly denies incarcerated individuals the right to access public documents under their freedom of information laws. Before the 1994 law that banned inmate requests, prisoners in Michigan could make FOIA requests. Not having the right to obtain public records is particularly burdensome to individuals who are wrongfully convicted or who may have grounds to appeal the length of their sentences. Michigan's total ban means that inmates cannot request or receive police reports, court records, and other public information related to their cases. If they cannot afford to hire an attorney or do not have a family member or friend who can file a request on their behalf, they cannot access information to support an appeal, petition for a new trial, or challenge the length of a sentence. This is fundamentally unfair. Additionally, many individuals who have been exonerated in recent years were able to prove their innocence when errors, bias, and even exculpatory evidence that had not been turned over to the defense as legally required were discovered through FOIA requests. Incarceration is expensive, and taxpayers deserve to not pay to house innocent people or others for longer periods of detention than appropriate or what the law or the elements of a crime require. There is evidence that consistent parental involvement with a child during the period of incarceration provides benefits to the child (less trauma related to separation, greater sense of stability, improvement in academic performance) as well as for the incarcerated parent (decreases parental stress, levels of anxiety, and depression while incarcerated), which aids in family reunification and decreased

recidivism. Lastly, any Michigan statute that refers to incarcerated individuals as “not persons” is dehumanizing and needs to be removed from the books. **HB 4427** passed 56-53.

HB 5546 creates a tax credit for bottle distributors based upon the containers sold during the tax year. I voted in favor of this bill because the State must continue investing in the bottle return system to maintain infrastructure and ensure distributors are able to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and effectively. **HB 5546** passed 103-7.

HB 4360 will allow municipalities to determine the boundaries for emergency services authority service areas. I voted in favor of this bill because allowing the affected local jurisdictions to define the territory that an emergency services authority has jurisdiction over, will ensure that residents have the most responsive emergency services. **HB 4360** passed 79-31.

6/13

HB 5179 amends the definition of "drug paraphernalia" under the Michigan Public Health Code to exclude testing products (i.e., fentanyl test strips -FTS) that are used to determine whether a controlled substance contains chemicals, toxic substances, or hazardous compounds in quantities that can cause physical harm or death. I voted in favor of this bill because it is another tool that can be used in the fight against drug overdoses and deaths. **HB 5179** passed 77-32.

HB 5110 creates the Unitrust Act, allowing a trustee to convert a trust to a unitrust, convert a unitrust to a trust, or change a unitrust. I voted in favor of this bill because it codifies converting an income trust into a unitrust, which provides a more predictable and stable income stream for beneficiaries. **HB 5110** passed unanimously.

SB 235 declares February 1 of each year “Blue Star Mothers Day.” I voted in favor of this bill because Michigan is the birthplace of Blue Star Mothers, Inc. and in recognition of the organization’s work, February 1 should be designated as “Blue Star Mothers' Day”. **SB 235** passed unanimously.

SBs 603-04 modify several election recount procedures at the municipal and statewide level clarifying that a recount is an administrative process and changing definitions, automatic cause, fee thresholds, timing, and grievance of error tabulation. I voted in favor of both bills because these changes are needed to update our state’s recount procedures. The bills allow for recounts to take place, even when the number of voters in the poll books does not match the number of ballots in the box. They also will help to prevent frivolous recount attempts that could result in the spread of misinformation and safety concerns as recounts are not investigations. Both bills passed 56-53.

HBs 5598-99 increase penalties for those who commit deed fraud. I voted in favor of both bills because with the rise in technology and sophistication, it is important to update our statutes to reflect the ease with which crimes like this could take place and to increase the severity of the

punishment to hopefully deter the crimes from occurring in the first place. Both bills passed unanimously.

SBs 841-43 create criminal penalties for sexual contact or sexual penetration with a corpse. I voted in favor of all three bills because it explicitly criminalizes sexual conduct with a dead person, closing a glaring loophole in Michigan law. All three bills passed unanimously.