



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROSALYNN C. BLISS
MAYOR

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Chair Julie Calley, and
Members of the House Local Government Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Calley,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bills 362, 364, 422 & 432 which will provide necessary tools, options and the flexibility needed to increase housing, particularly workforce housing, which is critically needed in the City of Grand Rapids.

Last summer, the City, in partnership with Housing Next, prepared a white paper on housing needs and determined that a housing crunch exists at all income levels. Between 2010 and 2020, metro Grand Rapids was the fastest growing region in the State. Between 2020 and 2025, the city is expected to grow in population from 198,917 to 212,146. If the community is to achieve a balanced housing market as the population rapidly increases, 9,000 new units are needed in the City by the year 2025.

Grand Rapids has a citywide goal of establishing a 70/30 mix of market-rate and affordable housing and has identified multiple corridors and districts that are ready for significant new housing investments. To that end, in the past year, the City Commission voted to establish the Grand Rapids Affordable Housing Fund and has invested almost \$1 million in that fund to date. \$5 million in ARPA funding has also been reserved for investment in affordable housing.

It is for these reasons, that we strongly support the Housing Michigan effort and this package of bills to allow our city to partner with builders, owners and housing providers to proactively address the shortage of housing and support regional economic growth. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and I hope you will support Senate Bills 362, 364, 422 & 432.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Bliss

C: Members of the House Local Government Committee, Honorable Senator Winnie Brinks, Honorable Representative Rachel Hood, and Honorable Representative David LaGrand