



CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Chair Jim Haadsma
Members of the House Labor Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Haadsma,

The City of Battle Creek opposes HB 4688, sponsored by you. As written, this bill will place local governments in a difficult situation of being required to staff at a certain level while unable to find personnel to fill police and fire positions. Even if an amendment is made to make this proposed legislation specific to Act 312 employees, it still creates another unfunded mandate by the State.

As written, we believe this legislation is a one-way ticket into binding arbitration, which is costly to both municipalities and the people we serve.

This bill could easily set up a situation where municipalities end up with a contract that is unaffordable and, as a result, there would be a need to reduce other staff and services to meet the demands of this requirement.

It's also worth noting this is especially problematic because of the other legislative changes made to intergovernmental agreements (signed by the Governor in August) greatly hindering, potentially preventing, the ability to contract with others to provide public safety services without collective bargaining that decision as well.

It is essential that committee members realize the unintended consequences of advancing this bill as written. The City respectfully requests you not send HB 4688 forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca L. Fleury
City Manager
City of Battle Creek

