

# Grand Rapids Promise Zone

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Grand Rapids Promise Zone Authority  
1331 Martin Luther King Jr St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Natalie Price  
State Representative 5th House District  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Price,

The Grand Rapids Promise Zone has been serving students since the fall of 2020. During our relatively short time in existence, we have already seen a positive impact for students we have served in helping them achieve their post-secondary goals. That said, it is clear that there are gaps in the support we are able to provide to students which is why we are writing to express strong support for Senate Bills 350 and 555. These Bills will allow us to extend our services and to provide comprehensive support tailored to the diverse needs of our student community.

Recent surveys conducted among our Promise Zone students have underscored the importance of the provisions outlined in these bills. The feedback received emphasized the vital role programming for current college students would give to help provide connections and “stay focused and on track.” This is particularly essential in a student’s first semester in college. In addition, students also indicated how being able to fund items that fall into the definition of total cost of attendance, would help their ability to persist and ultimately meet their academic goals. Transportation and food assistance are often called out by our students as areas of need.

Senate Bill 350 and 555 present an invaluable opportunity to enhance the supports we can provide to eligible students. By extending our services and adopting a more comprehensive approach more students will persist through their educational journey and achieve a post-secondary degree or certificate.

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Thank you for your dedication to our community and the students we serve.

## The Grand Rapids Promise Zone Board



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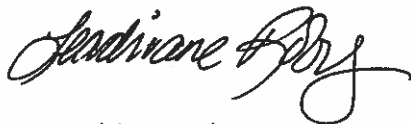
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