



Saugatuck Public Schools

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Representative Amanda Price
Michigan House of Representatives

Regarding: HB ~~4182~~, to Amend Community College Act

4265

Dear Chairwoman Price:

I am writing to lend my support to HB ~~4182~~⁴²⁶⁵, to amend the Community College Act to remove the requirement that an annexing district must be contiguous to the community college district it seeks to join.

As you know, the Holland/Saugatuck area would greatly benefit by being within a community college district. Our community would benefit from enhanced dual enrollment and middle college opportunities, a more affordable launch toward a bachelor's degree, and enhanced skills and job training programs, not just for our students but also for our smaller employers, companies that cannot afford to run their own job training program. The Ottawa County area is the largest metropolitan area in Michigan that is not in a community college district, which puts us at a huge handicap in attracting and retaining advanced manufacturing jobs that we see as the backbone of our economy.

However, our school districts is not contiguous to an existing community college district and an ISD-wide solution is not viable because it would make sense for some of the local districts to annex to Muskegon Community College, others to annex to Grand Rapids Community College district, or even Lake Michigan College. Our local school districts should have the option to annex into a non-contiguous community college district, as your bill would allow.

Please know that the Saugatuck Public Schools strongly supports HB ~~4182~~⁴²⁶⁵. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rolfe Timmerman, Superintendent
Saugatuck Public Schools
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