

Welcome to the 2014 Graduate Michigan Action Network.

We are getting closer to launching our new web site and new Action Networks, but for now, you'll be receiving GMAN bulletins the old fashioned way – through direct emails from me. I know that they get long, but here are today's conversations:

1. **NEEDS ATTENTION TODAY:** Congressional sign on letter in support of youth employment funding in the federal budget.
2. **NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:** Input into Michigan's School Discipline Policy
3. **NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:** Opportunities for expanded learning support in the state budget.
4. **NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:** Register for Project Voice

NEEDS ATTENTION TODAY: Congressional sign on letter in support of youth employment funding in the federal budget by April 4.

Sorry for the short notice, but thank you to our partners at the National Youth Employment Coalition and the work of our own Congressman Dan Kildee, who represents those of us in Arenac, Bay and Genesee Counties, as well as parts of Saginaw and Tuscola Counties. Congressman Kildee is asking his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to indicate their support full funding for the Youth Activities provisions within Title I of the Workforce Investment Act in the Fiscal Year 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (whew!) by signing onto a letter to the chairs of that committee. You can access the letter [here](#).

Please contact your Representative and ask him/her to sign on to Congressman Kildee's letter – it must be submitted to appropriators on April 4th. To find out who represents you in Congress, go to <http://www.sparkaction.org/act/officials> and type in your zip code.

You can contact your Representative by email or phone. If you call your Representative's office (you can call both the DC office AND the Michigan office):

- Ask for the staff person who works on labor/workforce development; leave a voicemail, if the person is not available.
- Ask the receptionist for the staff member's email address so you can send an email.

In your message:

- Identify yourself as a constituent by including your name and location
- If you are calling on behalf of your organization, include the name of the organization and your title
- Direct the staff member to contact Jordan Dickinson

Jordan.Dickinson@mail.house.gov in Congressman Kildee's office in order to sign on to the letter.

If you need any help, just let us know!

NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Input into Michigan's School Discipline Policy

We've been so glad to have been a part of the Michigan School Discipline Task Force, an initiative taken on by the Michigan Department of Education through some support from the National Association of State Boards of Education and with the help of the American Institutes for Research specifically to revise and implement new state student discipline policies that limit the use of out-of-school punishments, something that Michigan's Children has worked with many other partners to advocate for throughout our 20 years of existence. As expected, the proposed School Discipline Policy Statement was discussed at the State Board of Education's March 11 meeting and is now open for public comment. Click [here](#) to read the policy statement and to make your experiences and knowledge known. There are three different versions, and make sure that you comment on the 1st one.

In May, the Department will be bringing an updated Model School Code of Conduct to the Board of Education for approval, which will be a significant shift from current code of conduct language. This has been a very exciting effort, and will be a great opportunity to build some momentum around the state on the impact of suspension and expulsion on student, family, school and community outcomes. More to come...

NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Opportunities for expanded learning to support the state budget.

As the state budget proposals are moving through the state legislature, we are focusing significant effort on securing funding for expanded learning opportunities. Because of some great leadership, the House version of the Department of Human Services budget includes \$3 million to support afterschool and summer learning. Even though this was not included in the Senate version of that budget released last week, we will be working to convince legislators to maintain it in the Conference Committee process and the Governor's office to avoid a line item veto as has happened in past years.

State legislators are home for spring break, so it is a great time to talk with them about the importance of before- and after-school and summer learning programs and the need for the state to prioritize investment in those programs. Inviting them to visit programs is always a great idea too. Take the opportunity, and let us know how we can help!

NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Join youth around the state at Project Voice event in Flint.

Project Voice is the annual youth leadership conference hosted by the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) to provide youth with cutting edge learning and leadership opportunities to become positive catalysts for change in their community. The conference is designed for youth and by youth. All workshops and keynote speakers are presented by young people.

April 25, 2014
University of Michigan- Flint

Register by April 21 at projectvoice2014.weebly.com, attendance is limited.

If you are interested in working with us to facilitate youth voice in your community, please just let me know by responding to this email.

Sincerely,

Michele Corey
Vice President for Programs
Michigan's Children
330 Marshall Street, Suite 211
Lansing, MI 48912
517-485-3500, ext. 2816
Direct: 517-664-9816
michele@michiganschildren.org
www.michiganschildren.org

