

May 8, 2020

Dear Rep. Slotkin:

Over the past several weeks, we, Michigan's Children, have relayed a wide range of information, policy recommendations and constituent feedback regarding issues impacting Michigan children, youth and families during this difficult time. We greatly appreciate your consideration. We have identified specific issues that reflect your positions, expertise, and communications we've had with your staff, and we would like to further discuss your willingness and ability to champion these priorities on behalf of our state's most vulnerable children, youth and families in future federal COVID response legislation:

## **Direct Financial Supports for State and Local Governments**

Michigan, like other states, is facing significant revenue challenges due to this crisis. Critical public services, and supports for those services that go to nonprofits and other agencies can't continue without strong state and local governments to support them.

# **Support Technology Investments for Families**

Back initiatives like those being put forth in the Closing the Homework Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act. These technology investments should help increase short- and longer-term capacity to expand access wherever possible; they must support access for all family members, including adult learners and other home-based service provision; and support local innovations and explore scaling and expansion.

Thank you for your service for the children, youth, and families of Michigan, we look forward to working together.

Regards,

Matt Gillard President & CEO

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### Officers

Kurt Strehlke, Chair Bank of America

Shaun Wilson, Secretary

Tony Stamas, Treasurer Midland Business Alliance

## Directors

## Jennifer Bowman

Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

Kristen Kangas-Kraft

Blue Cross Shield of Michigan

Yazeed Moore W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Terry Murphy

Retired – Certofied Public Accountant

Diana Wong

Eastern Michigan University

John Ziraldo

Commonwealth Consulting

**Matthew Gillard** President and CEO