



Public policy in the best interest of children

May 8, 2020

Dear Rep. Upton:

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:

Additional Education Investment for Michigan Students Who Need the Most Support

Some students, including Benton Harbor and Kalamazoo, have to catch up with peers who even before the crisis were better-positioned to take advantage of online learning and learning resources in their homes and communities. Due to the pressures facing state appropriators and local districts, Michigan will likely not be able to provide high-quality supports to learners most at risk of falling behind without dedicated, additional federal resources for the following:

- Afterschool and summer learning opportunities through 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- Access to physical and mental health supports and integrated student supports through ESSA Title IV.
- IDEA Part C *Early On* services for infants and toddlers.
- Educational and postsecondary transition services for youth with IEPs or 504 plans through IDEA and WIOA.
- Coordination with other agencies including students experiencing foster care, homelessness, and juvenile justice including through McKinney Vento.

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.

Increased Federal Medicaid Assistant Percentage (FMAP)

The state match required for many critical federal programs supporting health and child welfare services is governed by Michigan's FMAP rate. Any decrease in the state mandated contributions for those programs combined with increased federal support is helpful to struggling state and local resource needs.

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

Regards,

Matt Gillard
President & CEO

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