



Public policy
in the best interest
of children



Contact: Teri Banas
teri@michiganschildren.org
(517) 896-0241

Immediate Release

Detroit Parents Question Senate Candidates on their Stances on Early Childhood Issues
*Michigan's Children, Think Babies Michigan, Detroit Champions for Hope,
Congress of Communities Will Host Virtual Forum Oct. 24th in 6 District Races*

DETROIT - Two Detroit-based advocacy groups focused on family and community issues will host a **virtual parent-led candidate forum** featuring candidates in **six State Senate races on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022** (1:00-3:00 pm).

[Detroit Champions for Hope](#), affiliated with the early-childhood advocacy group, Hope Starts Here, and the [Congress of Communities](#), a youth-focused advocacy group founded in Southwest Detroit, will be joined by statewide partners, [Michigan's Children](#) and the [Think Babies Michigan](#) initiative in staging the event.

The press is invited and interviews with organizers and parents in advance are welcomed.

Candidates have been invited from six newly-drawn state Senate districts in the Detroit area including:

- **Sen. Erika Geiss (D) and Erik Soderquist (R) in the 1st Senate District;**
- **Sen. Sylvia Santana (D) and Harry Sawicki (R) in the 2nd Senate District;**
- **Sen. Stephanie Chang (D) (there is no other challenger) in the 3rd Senate District;**
- **Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D) and Ken Crider (R) in the 6th Senate District;**
- **Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D) and Brandon Simpson (R) in the 8th Senate District;**
- **and Sen. Paul Wojno (D) and Paul Smith (R) in the 10th Senate District.**

Participants and media can register for the forum on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michigan-senate-candidates-forum-with-detroit-champions-for-hope-tickets-441276960267>

Or, watch the forum via a livestream on the Detroit Champions for Hope's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/detroitchampionsforhope>

Amanda Holiday, Early Childhood Programs Director for the Congress of Communities, said the upcoming November 8th election is important. "Even though we don't have big federal-level races we still want to make sure we have the right leaders in place. And everyone should be informed so that when they vote they can make a good decision," she said.

Michigan's Children, 215 S. Washington Sq., Ste 135, Lansing, Michigan 48933 (517) 485-3500
www.michiganschildren.org

Holiday said parents will be asking candidates about their stances on early childhood issues – **education, universal child care, and child care subsidies** – as well as questions about this season’s statewide ballot proposals. Like other parents, she plans to probe candidates about issues close to home. In her area of Detroit, pollution from high truck traffic is endangering children’s health.

Matt Gillard, President & CEO of Michigan’s Children, said civic engagement in the electoral process is key to electing people who will fight for children and families. “Really, that’s what elections are all about – voters speaking up, and candidates listening to the voices of constituents - to make policy decisions in the best interest of kids and families. It puts the power back where it belongs – with the people.”

###



Detroit Champions for Hope is the lead organization responsible for Parent Engagement and Advocacy across the Hope Starts Here initiative. Our goal is to support parents and caregivers as their child’s first teachers and champions. We accomplish this via the following three strategies: Supporting the role of families in children’s development; Improving the processes, programs and systems that support parents and caregivers; Creating a team of advocates to champion early childhood.



Congress of Communities (CoC) is the resident-led organizing and advocacy agency in #SwDetroit that works to facilitate solutions around community challenges and support community growth.



*Public policy
in the best interest
of children*

Michigan's Children is the only statewide, multi-issue advocacy organization focused solely on public policy in the best interest of children from cradle to career and their families. We have been creating opportunities for young people and caregivers to share their stories, concerns and suggestions directly with policymakers since 1996. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, our forums are presented as a non-partisan activity. <http://www.michiganschildren.org>



Think Babies Michigan is a collaborative of thousands of members—leaders, experts, families, organizations and providers—working together to improve the lives of babies prenatally through age 3 in Michigan.