



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

March 9, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

I unveiled the Michigan COVID Recovery Plan on January 19, 2021, emphasizing the urgency of getting federal funds out the door so we can protect Michiganders with the safe and effective vaccine, return to in-person education safely, and provide relief to small businesses and families. This legislation arrived on my desk *48 days later* – and not one of those days was spent negotiating with me and the State Budget Office to reach a bipartisan accord.

Normally, I provide state departments with guidance in implementing appropriations legislation by identifying budget boilerplate that violates the Michigan Constitution of 1963. In the interest of getting this money to work for Michigan, I am signing Enrolled House Bills 4047 and 4048 of 2021 without delay, absent the usual instructions to departments regarding implementation. However, when legal review of this bill's budget boilerplate is complete, I will direct state departments to implement this legislation consistent with constitutional requirements.

In the attached copies that have been filed with the Secretary of State, I have disapproved 2 items in each bill, pursuant to article 5, section 19 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Finally, I note that this legislation leaves more than \$2 billion in federal money unappropriated. As Michigan goes all-out to finally beat back this awful pandemic and turn the page to recovery, we need every last dollar going to work for us *before* the Legislature takes its Spring Break. I look forward to teaming up to make that happen, and that's why I've asked my budget director to convene a meeting to start negotiations as soon as possible. I know we share a basic desire to help Michiganders, and provide meaningful financial support to struggling businesses. Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Michigan Senate
The Honorable Jocelyn Benson