



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

March 18, 2022

Michigan Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

SENATE ENROLLING  
MAR 18 '22 PM3:50

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

Senators and Representatives,

Today I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 768 without my approval and will also return House Bill 5570 without approval upon receipt.

In Michigan, we have a remarkable record of collaboration. Since the pandemic began, we have worked together to turn a projected \$3 billion deficit into a \$7 billion surplus. In the past few months alone, we enacted a bipartisan budget that made critical investments in the kitchen-table issues that matter most to Michigan families. Together, we funded schools, built up roads and bridges, and protected public safety. Late last year, we passed a bipartisan package empowering our economic development and landed a \$7 billion investment—the largest in Michigan history—from General Motors. Last month, I signed bipartisan legislation that will help us lower the cost of prescription drugs.

I am proud that every single one of the over 780 bills I have signed has had bipartisan support. Our collaboration is proof that we can get things done together to provide working families with immediate financial relief without compromising on critical services that they rely on. The bills in question do not help Michiganders right now.

First, I am vetoing SB 768 because it would strip away funding from kids, police, and communities, and according to nonpartisan analysis, blow a recurring, multi-billion-dollar hole in basic state government functions from public safety to potholes. It would force tax hikes on families or deep and painful cuts to services, hurt our children's ability to catch up in school, force layoffs of cops and firefighters, and kneecap our ability to keep fixing crumbling roads. Leaders in business, education, public safety, and mayors across our state have requested a veto because of the damage these proposals would do.

Second, I will veto HB 5570, which would not take effect until 2023. Our shared goal is to lower costs, but this misguided proposal does nothing for Michiganders facing pain at the pump right now. In fact, it would kill 35,000 construction jobs, handicapping our ongoing

work to fix roads and bridges as construction season ramps up and we are all focused on getting Michiganders back to work.

I know we can collaborate to deliver immediate relief that makes a difference right now. We must come together to negotiate a balanced budget, as we have done three years in a row, and include proposals to lower costs and put more money in people's pockets.

In my executive budget recommendation, I proposed rolling back the Retirement Tax to save 500,000 households an average of \$1,000 per year and tripling the Earned Income Tax Credit to put nearly \$3,000 in the pockets of 730,000 Michiganders. These plans will make a real difference for people who are struggling the most right now to afford essentials. I also sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to suspend the federal gas tax through the end of 2022 so families can see immediate results at the pump and save money this year. Additionally, \$400 refund checks per vehicle resulting from bipartisan auto insurance reform we worked on together in 2019 are being sent out right now. That's not lip service, that's real relief, right now.

Let us continue to come together, sit down around the table, and negotiate revenue and spending priorities to tackle the challenges faced by Michiganders in every county. Let us also seize this opportunity to invest billions of dollars in federal resources we have received to keep growing our economy. Let us stay focused on getting things done.

State Budget Director Chris Harkins is prepared to meet with Chairman Albert and Chairman Stamas to continue our important work. I appreciate your efforts, and I am confident we keep working together to get things done for the people of Michigan. I look forward to meeting with you at our regularly scheduled quadrant meeting.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor