

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.4

Reps. Rogers, Coleman, Steenland, Rabhi, Morse, Young, Brabec, Hope, Brixie, Liberati, Hertel, Sneller, Cherry, Puri, Manoogian, Steckloff, Weiss, Breen, Scott, Tate, Brenda Carter, Cynthia Johnson, Kuppa, LaGrand, Aiyash, Ellison, Neeley, Hood, Bolden, Anthony, Garza, Jones, Stone, O'Neal, Clemente, Sabo, Tyrone Carter, Shannon, Koleszar, Lasinski, Camilleri, Peterson, Yancey, Cavanagh, Sowerby and Thanedar offered the following concurrent resolution:

1       A concurrent resolution to memorialize the federal government  
2 to provide direct aid to state and local governments.

3       Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly impacted  
4 Michigan and the United States. Since the first reported cases in  
5 Michigan on March 10, 2020, more than a half million Michiganders  
6 have been infected and more than 15,000 have lost their lives to  
7 the virus; and

8       Whereas, Unprecedented measures have been required to mitigate

1 the virus' spread and protect public health. Governor Gretchen  
2 Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and  
3 public health officials across the country have issued orders  
4 prohibiting large gatherings, closing schools, and requiring the  
5 temporary closure of nonessential businesses; and

6       Whereas, Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and protecting  
7 Michigan's citizens have affected state revenue. At the January  
8 2021 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, it was estimated that  
9 net General Fund revenue declined by more than \$345 million during  
10 the 2019-20 Fiscal Year and would decline further during the 2020-  
11 21 Fiscal Year. Nationwide, states are facing significant declines  
12 in tax revenue; and

13       Whereas, Local governments across Michigan are also facing a  
14 dire fiscal situation. Falling revenues from local taxes combined  
15 with possible cuts to state revenue sharing have dramatically  
16 altered budgetary estimates for local governments. The 24 Michigan  
17 communities that collect city income taxes are facing combined  
18 potential revenue losses of at least \$250 million; and

19       Whereas, Failing to mitigate these state and local revenue  
20 shortfalls may result in damaging cuts to core government  
21 functions. Michigan is required to have a balanced budget every  
22 year. The cuts necessary to meet this requirement could necessitate  
23 reductions in funding for critical public services, including  
24 education, public safety, and others. States and localities have  
25 already eliminated more than 1 million jobs since the Pandemic  
26 began, exceeding the total jobs lost following the Great Recession;  
27 and

28       Whereas, The cuts necessary to balance state budgets may  
29 hamper states' ability to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic and

1 deal with other important issues. With cuts necessary across state  
2 budgets, health care, economic development programs – including  
3 neighborhood development and relief for small businesses –  
4 investments in critical infrastructure such as dams, and PFAS and  
5 other cleanup efforts may also be eliminated or face funding  
6 reductions. Cutting these programs during the public health  
7 emergency and economic devastation brought by COVID-19 will make it  
8 much more difficult for states to recover from the crisis; and

9       Whereas, While some federal aid has already been provided to  
10 states and local governments, it is insufficient to weather the  
11 effects of the Pandemic. Michigan received aid from the federal  
12 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, but  
13 these funds may only be used for expenses that relate to the  
14 Pandemic. The act only provided direct aid to local governments  
15 with populations over 500,000, meaning that the vast majority of  
16 Michigan's nearly 2,000 local units of government were excluded.  
17 Further, direct aid to state and local governments was not included  
18 in the subsequent federal stimulus package enacted in December  
19 2020; and

20       Whereas, President Joe Biden has proposed and the U.S.  
21 Congress has begun working to enact a relief package that includes  
22 \$350 billion in emergency aid for state and local governments,  
23 including direct, flexible aid to local governments. Experts have  
24 projected that this total would be sufficient to avoid deep budget  
25 cuts, protecting public services and avoiding adverse effects on  
26 the economy's recovery; now, therefore, be it

27       Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate  
28 concurring), That we memorialize the federal government to provide  
29 direct aid to state and local governments; and be it further

1       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
2 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States  
3 House of Representatives, the President of the United States  
4 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.