

OGEMAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
806 WEST HOUGHTON AVENUE - ROOM 101
WEST BRANCH, MICHIGAN 48661

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILLS 4947 THROUGH 4966

WHEREAS, House Bills 4947 through 4966 would treat seventeen-year-olds as juveniles rather than adults;

WHEREAS, By changing state statutes to define seventeen-year-old defendants as eligible for services in the juvenile justice system, this places pressure on an already under-funded court system and constitutes an unfunded mandate on counties;

WHEREAS, According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, from 2003 to 2013, there were 19,118 seventeen-year-olds that went through the criminal court system; with additional offenders with lower level offenses not counted in those numbers.

WHEREAS, Ogemaw County has concerns that the probate court system does not have the financial resources or capacity to handle a new population of offenders;

WHEREAS, Without additional state funding, Ogemaw County could not absorb the costs of programming for this population in the juvenile system and services to younger offenders could be negatively affected.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Governor and Michigan Legislature to not pass House Bills 4947 through 4966 as written: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution is forwarded to Governor Snyder, Senator Darwin Booher, Representative Bruce Rendon, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

