



**RESOLUTION NO. 26-2006**

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
OPPOSITION TO THE K-16 SPENDING MANDATE**

**WHEREAS**, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners is opposed to a guaranteed educational inflationary increase that would prevent counties from funding critical mandated services; and

**WHEREAS**, the *American School Board Journal* released their "Educational Vital Signs" report indicating that the State of Michigan ranks second only to Vermont in the amount of state budget dedicated to education, with 31.5%, while the national average is 21.7%; and

**WHEREAS**, the national average teacher's salary is \$45,771, in Michigan the average is much higher at \$54,000, which is second only to California at 55,698; and

**WHEREAS**, the same report ranked Michigan seventh for dedication of administrative funding per pupil, but number one outside of the Eastern Seaboard and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is very supportive of fair funding for educational resources for Michigan's students as a means for a thriving quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is equally supportive of fair funding of critical emergency, local public health and public safety programs for Michigan's citizens as a means of a thriving quality of life as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature and Governor are obligated to provide funding for Michigan's counties and revenue sharing is due to begin again in FY 2008 as part of a means for counties to provide these state mandated critical services; and

**WHEREAS**, if the K-16 spending mandate is passed it will cost Michigan over \$1 billion dollars, with annual inflationary increases, which will surely cut into funding for revenue sharing, Medicaid, and other critical services counties and Michigan's citizens depend upon.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners opposes the K-16 spending mandate as passage will jeopardize the funding of critical mandated services which the state requires and that citizens depend upon.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Association of Counties.

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH    )

I, PATTIE S. BENDER, Clerk of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of St. Joseph, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board on October 24, 2006.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County and Court at Centreville, Michigan, this 26th day of October 2006.

  
Pattie S. Bender, Clerk