

RESOLUTION "D"

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF SAGINAW**

**In Support of Diversity and Affirmative Action Programs
In Opposition to November Ballot Proposal 2006-2: Michigan Civil Rights Initiative**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Saginaw, State of Michigan, held in the City of Saginaw on the 26th day of September 2006, at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

PRESENT - *Raymond F. Bartels, Thomas A. Basil, Robert D. Blaine, Bregitte K. Braddock, Ann M. Doyle, James M. Graham, Cheryl M. Hadsall, Todd M. Hare, Kenneth B. Horn, Timothy M. Novak, Michael P. O'Hare, Carl E. Ruth, Robert M. Woods, Jr., Patrick A. Wurtzel*

ABSENT - *Terry W. Sangster*

Commissioner Horn offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruth:

WHEREAS, The Saginaw County community has a long history of promoting racial, ethnic, and gender equality in education, employment, housing, contracts and public services; and,

WHEREAS, Saginaw County implemented and currently administers an Affirmative Action Plan to promote these important community values; and,

WHEREAS, Affirmative action has proven its value as an effective tool in diminishing barriers for women and men of various ethnic and cultural groups who have been denied equality; and,

WHEREAS, Out-of-state interest groups have launched a misleading and deceptive campaign to amend Michigan's Constitution that would outlaw Affirmative Action; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed constitutional amendment would remove from local governments and public universities their ability to control their own policies, processes, and practices by eliminating the ability to consider racial and gender disparities in the areas of personnel hiring, contracting, and university admissions; and,

WHEREAS, The Saginaw County community has long recognized that the diversity of its citizens is one of its most valuable assets and further recognizes that it must be allowed to continually review and improve its processes to increase diversity among its workforce and contractors to better reflect the composition of the County and better serve its residents; and,

WHEREAS, The deceptive "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative" (MCRI) is certain to have broad and far reaching negative consequences by irreparably harming the ability of all Michigan residents to enjoy a fair chance in education and employment; and,

WHEREAS, The adoption of the proposed amendment would likely cripple efforts to resolve gender and racial inequalities in key areas such as health care, education, housing, contracts, law enforcement and other public services; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed amendment would remove the ability of local officials to bring about diversity within the operations of local government, and would conflict with the principle of local control that allows officials to determine how best to serve its residents; and,

WHEREAS, Numerous civic organizations, labor unions, business groups, educational institutions, persons from all political parties, religious, ethnic, and women's organizations oppose the adoption of this amendment;

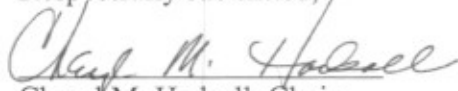
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its support for diversity and Affirmative Action Programs, as well as, the principle of local control;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners goes on record as opposing the inappropriately called "Michigan Civil Rights Amendment" to the Michigan Constitution since it in no way furthers the civil rights of Michigan citizens and instead is completely contrary to the promotion and continuance of civil rights in this State;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage our citizens, as well as, our citizen organizations to become informed and educate themselves on this important issue and to actively participate in efforts to defeat this proposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Representatives Dave Camp and Dale E. Kildee, State Senator Michael Goschka, State Representatives Roger Kahn, John Moolenaar and Carl M. Williams, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other 82 Michigan counties.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl M. Hadsall, Chair

ADOPTED:

Yeas - *Raymond F. Bartels, Thomas A. Basil, Robert D. Blaine, Bregitte K. Braddock, Ann M. Doyle, James M. Graham, Cheryl M. Hadsall, Todd M. Hare, Kenneth B. Horn, Timothy M. Novak, Michael P. O'Hare, Carl E. Ruth, Robert M. Woods, Jr., Patrick A. Wurtzel*

Nays - *None*

