

BY: General Government Committee, Christine Long, Chairperson

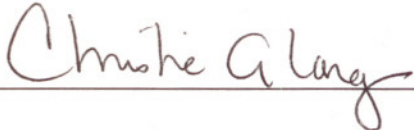
ON RE: **MR #07277 – Board of Commissioners – Support for Keeping Social Studies on the Michigan Merit Examination**

To: The Oakland County Board of Commissioners  
Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The General Government Committee, having reviewed the above-referenced resolution on January 7, 2008, reports with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I move acceptance of the foregoing report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

  
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General Government Committee:

motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Suarez and Kreimel absent.

Miscellaneous Resolution #07277

**BY:** Commissioners Hugh D. Crawford and Bill Bullard, Jr.

**RE:** **Board of Commissioners – Support for Keeping Social Studies on the Michigan Merit Examination**

**TO:** Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

**WHEREAS** the adopted Revised School Code for the State of Michigan and the State School Aid Act provide that public school districts administer the Michigan Merit Exam (the successor to the MEAP test) to assess 11<sup>th</sup> grade students; and

**WHEREAS** the purpose of the Michigan Merit Examination is to assess pupil performance in mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts for the purpose of improving academic achievement and establishing a statewide standard of competency. This assessment contributes to the improvement of Michigan schools' curriculum and instruction by encouraging alignment with national standards; and

**WHEREAS** Senate Bills 805 and 806 propose to eliminate social studies from the Michigan Merit Examination. This would eliminate the related topics of: history, world history, world geography, economics, and American government; and

**WHEREAS** the intention behind proposing to eliminate social studies is that it will save taxpayers money. However, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren, who is also a former member of the State Board of Education, aptly notes in a November 27, 2007 *Detroit Free Press* article that, "What is expected and tested is what will be taught and learned. Eliminating social studies would all but be the death knell for civics, history, geography and economics in Michigan high schools. For the sake of some savings now, we could be paying the ultimate price later;" and

**WHEREAS** the study of social studies forms the basic core of thought for growing inquiring minds. This discipline is fundamental to nurturing students to have a meaningful understanding of effective citizenry and good government; and

**WHEREAS** the study of social studies is the catalyst for learning about government and the values of civic engagement, which will help children to grow into the leaders of tomorrow. Social Studies assists young people in developing their ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society and as a part of an interdependent and global economy; and

**WHEREAS** the elimination of social studies from the Michigan Merit Examination has the unintended consequence of sending out a shortsighted message that a rigorous and relevant social studies curriculum is not important in preparing students for college, the workplace and towards becoming active, responsible citizens.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby supports maintaining social studies within the school districts and on the Michigan Merit Examinations.

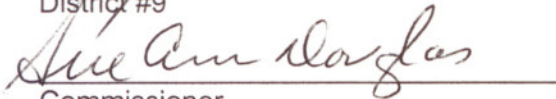
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners opposes Senate Bills 805 and 806 and any efforts that would propose to eliminate social studies from the public schools' curriculum and on the Michigan Merit Examination.





**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Oakland County Clerk is requested to forward copies of this adopted resolution to Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren, Senator Michael Switalski, Senator John Pappageorge, Senator Valde Garcia, Senator Roger Kahn, the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Oakland County delegation to the Michigan legislature, the Michigan Association of Counties and Oakland County's legislative lobbyists.

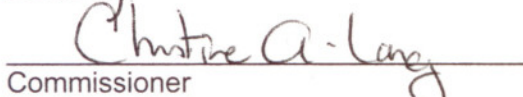
Chairperson, we move the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.


  
Commissioner Hugh D. Crawford  
District #9


  
Commissioner  
District #12


  
Commissioner  
District #

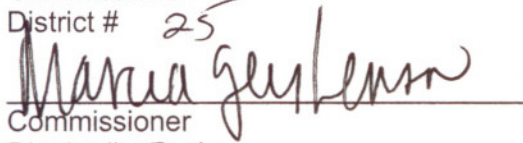
  
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District #20


  
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Commissioner Bill Bullard, Jr.  
District #2

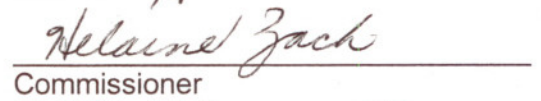
  
Commissioner  
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Commissioner  
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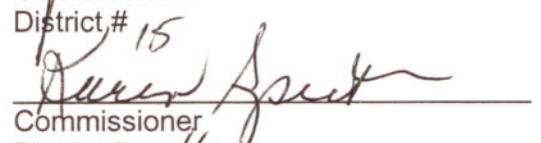
  
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Resolution #07277

November 29, 2007

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the General Government Committee. There were no objections.

Moved by Rogers supported by Gershenson the resolutions (with fiscal notes attached) on the Consent Agenda be adopted (with accompanying reports being accepted).

AYES: Burns, Coleman, Coulter, Crawford, Douglas, Gershenson, Gingell, Gosselin, Gregory, Greimel, Jacobsen, Kowall, Long, Middleton, Nash, Potter, Potts, Rogers, Scott, Spector, Woodward, Zack, Bullard. (23)

NAYS: None. (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolutions (with fiscal notes attached) on the Consent Agenda were adopted (with accompanying reports being accepted).

**DOES NOT REQUIRE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACTION**

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Ruth Johnson, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on January 17, 2008, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 17th day of January, 2008.

  
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Ruth Johnson, County Clerk