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Barb Byrum
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March 15, 2019

Michigan Association of Counties
ATTN: Exec. Director Stephan Currie
110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Executive Director Currie,

Please find enclosed Resolution #19-095, a Resolution Reaffirming Support for Legislation to "Raise the Age" for Juvenile Offenders in Michigan.

Resolution #19-095 was passed by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2019.

Please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Barb Byrum
Ingham County Clerk

Enclosure

Introduced by the Law & Courts Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO “RAISE THE
AGE”
FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION # 19 – 095

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 17-507 Supporting Legislation to “Raise the Age” for Juvenile Offenders in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Michigan remains one of four states in the U.S. that automatically prosecutes 17-year-olds as adults, regardless of the severity of the crime, which is unaligned with national best practices, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and Michigan’s other governing laws that define “youth” as any individual under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, the majority of 17-year-olds entering the criminal justice system are arrested for nonviolent, misdemeanor offenses, many of whom would be eligible for diversion in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, research on adolescent brain development shows that teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively, and succumb to peer pressure, which may lead to delinquent behavior, yet are very responsive to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification during these formative years; and

WHEREAS, recent research from the Justice Policy Institute shows that projected costs associated with raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18 were consistently overstated and that states that have raised the age to 18 have instead contained costs by reallocating funds to keeping young people in the community, thus reducing confinement and improving community safety; and

WHEREAS, research shows that youths tried before an adult court were 44% more likely to be re-arrested for felony property crimes and 85% more likely to be re-arrested for violent crimes compared to those tried before a juvenile court; and

WHEREAS, when adolescents are tried as adults, their conviction data is public and thus accessible to employers and other professionals resulting in lifelong consequences, including significant barriers to accessing housing, employment, and higher education, and these obstacles lead to a lifetime of poor physical and mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the juvenile justice system prioritizes developmentally appropriate community-based programs and diversion services designed to rehabilitate and encourage family involvement in treatment, but these programs and services are not made available to 17-year-olds in the adult system; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, prosecuting youths as adults increases recidivism, and states that have transferred their 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system have experienced improvements in public safety (Justice Policy Institute, 2017); and

WHEREAS, the “Raise the Age - Youth In Prison” legislative package, including House Bills 4133, 4134, 4135, 4136, 4137, 4138, 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144, 4145 and 4146, and Senate Bills 84, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 and 102, was reintroduced to the Michigan Legislature recently to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Michigan Legislature to pass the “Raise the Age - Youth in Prison” package, including House Bills 4133, 4134, 4135, 4136, 4137, 4138, 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144, 4145 and 4146, and Senate Bills 84, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 and 102 to align Michigan’s procedures with standard national practices and raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners further urges the Legislature to monitor and adopt an appropriate funding mechanism through the Department of Health and Human Services to cover the additional costs associated with increasing the age of the juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18.

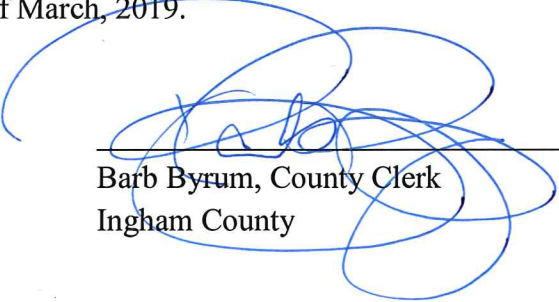
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, Ingham County’s State Legislative delegation, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

LAW & COURTS: Yeas: Koenig, Slaughter, Crenshaw, Polsdofer, Trubac, Schafer
Nays: None **Absent:** Celentino **Approved 02/28/2019**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN }
COUNTY OF INGHAM }**

I, Barb Byrum, Clerk for the County of Ingham, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ingham, Michigan on March 12, 2019 as appears on record in my office, and that I have compared the same with the original and that it is a true transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County at Lansing, Michigan this 15th day of March, 2019.



Barb Byrum, County Clerk
Ingham County