

## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

# Press Release

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### **SENATE DEMOCRATS FIGHT TO PROTECT EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

*Oppose irresponsible Republican maneuver to rob schools and communities, create more uncertainty for Michigan economy*

LANSING—Today Senate Democrats opposed Republican efforts that would endanger funding for public safety, healthcare and education. After voting against a business-backed Democratic amendment which would protect resources for schools, cops, and communities, Republicans decided to blow a \$600 million hole in the budget before leaving on vacation.

“The recently-approved budget agreement was intended to reflect our spending priorities, and is supposed to represent the Legislature’s commitment to provide basic public services for our citizens,” said Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), Minority Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. “The ink is barely dry on this agreement and we’re already putting funding for the services we fought so hard to protect in jeopardy again. It’s irresponsible to move forward without a plan for replacement revenue in place.”

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats successfully fought for a solution to Michigan’s budget crisis that preserves funding for critical state services such as health care, education, and job creation. This agreement included many difficult cuts to make government run more efficiently and protected the resources communities need to create jobs and fuel economic development.

“The Legislature waited until all three Wall Street credit rating agencies had downgraded our state’s bond rating to replace the Single Business Tax,” said Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing), member of the Senate Finance Committee. “Here we are just a few months later, ready to make the same mistakes all over again. What kind of message does this send to our schools, firefighters, businesses, and others? We simply cannot expect to move our economy forward by continuing this pattern of fiscal uncertainty.”

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