

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

# Hunter Press Release

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## SENATOR HUNTER SUPPORTS PAY CUTS FOR LEGISLATORS

LANSING- The Michigan Senate today adopted a resolution that recommends the State Officers Compensation Committee implement a five percent pay cut for state lawmakers, state officers, and Supreme Court Justices.

Following is Sen. Hunter's statement in support of the pay cuts:

"I support the proposed reduction in legislative salaries. My only regret is that this opportunity did not present itself earlier in the budget process. Our job is to lead by example.

"To NOT support this legislation reminds me of an old adage that authoritarian parents often used with their children that said: "Do as I say, and not as I do."

"I believe it is time to follow the same precepts that we are asking of every resident of the state of Michigan. We are asking them to tighten their belts. We are asking them to be even more frugal. We are asking them to do more with less. How can we in good conscience refuse to do the same?

"At a time when our state is facing one of the most challenging times in modern history, this is an opportunity to demonstrate true leadership. We must set an example and send a message to the people of the state of Michigan: we are in this crisis with you.

"The last few months we have talked and talked about the need for everyone to pitch in and pay their part. It is time to walk the walk."

The Senate also approved a health care reform package, SB 868 and SB 869, placing lawmaker health care benefits at the same level as those of other state employees. The package, effective January 1, 2008, covers lawmakers, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor General, Constitutional Court Administrator, Supreme Court justices, judges of the Court of Appeals, circuit court, district court, probate court and Detroit recorder's court judges. The two bills passed without opposition.

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*Sen. Hunter represents the 5th district, which is comprised of northwest Detroit, Dearborn and Inkster. He serves as Minority Vice Chair of the Banking & Financial Institutions and the Homeland Security & Emerging Technologies Committees. He is also a member of the Commerce & Tourism and the Economic Development & Regulatory Reform Committees.*

