

Senators Hardiman, Emerson, Birkholz, Barcia and Jelinek offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 127.**

A resolution to request the Department of Community Health, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries be added as co-chairs to the Michigan After-School Partnership, to urge the partnership to expand and add additional programs, and to urge the partnership to report on its progress in reaching its goals.

Whereas, In 2003, House Resolution No. 26 requested the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to convene a task force named the Michigan After-school Initiative to develop quality after-school programs for all Michigan children. This initiative centered on efforts to assess the status of after-school services in Michigan, including identifying the number of children and youth served statewide in after-school programs and to develop a plan to ensure quality after-school programs for every school-age child in the state; and

Whereas, In 2004, the Legislature extended the duration of the Michigan After-school Initiative, directing the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services as co-chairs and re-naming it the Michigan After-School Partnership; and

Whereas, The Michigan After-school Initiative's survey found that 449,928 children are home alone after school in Michigan and potentially in need of programs during the hours they are not in school. The survey of Michigan households indicated that nearly one-third of Michigan's children are left to care for themselves for one to five days per week, and research shows that the likelihood of high-risk behaviors increases when youth are home alone 10 or more hours a week; and

Whereas, Structured experiences for youth provide excellent economic returns in that after-school programs can reduce child care costs, improve school performance, increase compensation/future taxable income earnings, reduce crime costs, and reduce welfare costs; and

Whereas, Almost 70 percent of all Michigan school-age children live in families where the sole parent or both parents work. Being unsupervised during the non-school hours puts children and youth at greater risk of truancy, performing poorly in school, depression, substance abuse, and becoming a victim of crime; and

Whereas, Providing structured experiences for youth can positively impact the public's health, as nearly 40 percent of Michigan youth say they engage in insufficient amount of physical activity. At least 10.7 percent of high school youth are overweight, and 13.3 percent are at risk for becoming overweight. It is far more likely that overweight youth will be overweight as adults, and the direct and indirect costs associated with physical inactivity in Michigan in 2002 are estimated at \$8.9 billion; and

Whereas, The survey also found that 71 percent of families are without after-school programs and that 48 percent of Michigan families who do not have after-school care wish their children could attend after-school programs; and

Whereas, Research indicates that children who attend high-quality, out-of-school programs have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and conduct in school compared to their peers who are not in out-of-school-time programs; and

Whereas, Children who attend quality out-of-school-time programs spend more time in learning opportunities, academic activities, and enrichment activities and spend less time watching television than their peers; and

Whereas, Parents and youth interviewed for the Michigan After-school Initiative 2003 Report detailed time and time again the positive difference out-of-school-time programs made in their lives and the lives of their families; and

Whereas, The Department of Education and the Department of Human Services were named as co-chairs of the Michigan After-School Partnership, and realizing the public health benefits and work-force development benefits of the after-school programs, the Department of Community Health and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth would greatly enhance the Michigan After-

School Partnership; and

Whereas, Libraries and the cultural sector are two of the largest providers of after-school programs in Michigan. The Department of History, Arts, and Libraries has developed a website listing many such programs and is a central place where parents and caregivers may become aware of available after-school opportunities. The Department of History, Arts, and Libraries would be a valuable co-chair providing access via the Internet to information about after-school resources; and

Whereas, The 2003 task force report issued by the Michigan After-school Initiative focused on actions that would strengthen the state's ability to support high-quality, affordable, out-of-school-time programs and recommended policy changes in the areas of funding, interagency collaboration, capacity building, community collaboration, and evaluation. Implementing these recommendations will require the continued collaboration, focus, and commitment of the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the additional collaboration, focus, and commitment of the Department of Community Health, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries; and

Whereas, The recommendations of the Michigan After-school Initiative reflect the expertise of parents and more than 70 representatives from 45 organizations that included state agencies, public institutions, and private nonprofit organizations with extensive experience in education, youth development, research, violence prevention, juvenile justice, child care, volunteerism, business, and social work. It is imperative for Michigan's school-age children and youth that the collaboration that produced this shared vision for out-of-school-time programming continue; and

Whereas, Hundreds of thousands of Michigan children and youth will be denied the opportunity to participate in activities that can help them reach their full potential and avoid the negative choices that are costly and detrimental to society if the state fails to implement the recommendations of the Michigan After-school Initiative: 1) to reinforce and extend existing public support for after-school programs; 2) to develop state structures and policies that support quality after-school programming; 3) to identify and facilitate access to sustainable funding mechanisms for existing after-school programs; 4) to ensure that all Michigan school-age children have access to a variety of quality after-school programs that enhance physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development; and 5) to alleviate after-school childcare burdens of working parents and caregivers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Department of Community Health, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries be named as additional co-chairs to the Michigan After-School Partnership; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that participation in the Michigan After-School Partnership be expanded beyond the membership of the initial Michigan After-school Initiative to increase the representation of parents, youth, foundations, employers, and others with experience in education, child care, after-school and youth development services, and crime and violence prevention; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the Michigan After-School Partnership to work diligently with the private sector to understand the out-of-school-time needs of employed parents and their families, and that the partnership engage the public and private sectors in building and sustaining high quality out-of-school-time programs; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that each year, on or before December 31, the Michigan After-School Partnership report its progress in reaching the recommendations set forth in the Michigan After-school Initiative's report to the Legislature and the Governor; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.