



April 25, 2011

The Honorable Paul Scott, Chair
Education Committee
307 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Scott,

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill No. 4241. The legislation would be a critical step toward helping children by eliminating teacher tenure in Michigan's K-12 school system.

The research is clear that no other school-based factor matters more than the quality of a child's teacher. Things like shrinking class sizes can help, but they do not have nearly the same effect on student learning as excellent teaching. Representative Rogers' bill puts the focus where it should be - on insisting that Michigan students have the most effective teachers in front of them every day.

Because excellent instruction is so fundamental to student academic achievement, we place a premium on having the best and the brightest teachers in our public schools. By ensuring that teachers are held to high standards through robust evaluations, providing real rewards for excellence and creating environments where teachers are supported by equally driven and talented peers we will truly elevate the teaching profession.

We also know that research shows there is no correlation between the outdated practice of tenure and student achievement. Tenure policies serve to keep teachers in the classroom regardless of the academic progress their students make. As tenure policies have become enshrined in laws around the country, student performance has continually declined. With federal due-process laws now in place, tenure is not necessary to sufficiently protect teachers from arbitrary dismissal.

With our children's futures at stake, we must make create policies that put kids first. Eliminating tenure laws makes sense for our schools today. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Rhee", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Rhee
Founder and CEO

Cc:

The Honorable Bill Rogers
The Honorable Thomas B. Hooker
The Honorable Hugh D. Crawford
The Honorable Tom McMillin
The Honorable Ray A. Franz
The Honorable Kurt Heise
The Honorable Holly Hughes

The Honorable Aric Nesbitt
The Honorable Margaret E. O'Brien
The Honorable Amanda Price
The Honorable Deb Lynn Shaughnessy
The Honorable Ken Yonker
The Honorable Lisa Brown
The Honorable George T. Darany
The Honorable Lisa Howze
The Honorable Rudy Hobbs
The Honorable David Rutledge
The Honorable Thomas Stallworth III
The Honorable Douglas A. Geiss