



# MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

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April 24, 2013

Representative Kurt Heise

Criminal Justice Committee Chairman

N-699 House Office Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909

RE: HB 4083

Dear Representative Heise:

My name is Robert Stevenson, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP). I am writing on behalf of our Association to express the MACP's opposition to HB 4083.

There are several reasons that we are opposed. First and foremost is that almost every police agency in the state has lost funding over the last ten years. Any additional fees that are going to be added to fines should be earmarked back to local Police Departments. Before we start adding on additional fees to benefit private entities we need to first address the dire financial situation that many of our Police Departments find themselves in today.

Another reason that we are opposed is that Crime Stoppers rewards need to be funneled through Crime Stoppers for a person to be eligible for a reward. Meaning, that if a reward is posted and a person wants to give a tip and calls the local police department instead of Crime Stoppers they are ineligible to receive the reward. If we are going to start giving money away that is generated by the fines assessed on convicted felons and misdemeanors then local Police Departments should have some input into how Crime Stoppers administers and distributes our funds. At the very least a person who calls in a tip to a local police department should be eligible to collect any reward.

The third reason that we are opposed to HB 4083 is that Police Departments are not and should never be funding mechanisms to benefit private programs. There are many other excellent private programs that would also like to benefit from this type of arrangement. Where will it all stop?

Please understand that I think Crime Stoppers is a fine program. When I was Chief of the Livonia Police Department I donated several thousand dollars each year for their support. This practice has continued after my departure and many other Police Departments also make similar donations. This type of support along with fundraisers and private donations are the method we believe should continue to fund Crime Stoppers.

Please feel free to contact me should your need any additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert Stevenson  
Retired Chief/MACP Executive Director

RS:jkf