

WILLIAM PAUL NICHOLS
PROSECUTOR



JOSEPH A. COSTELLO, JR.
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Monroe County Courthouse • Third Floor
125 East Second Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161-2193

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Heise, State Representative
Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 4083

Dear Representative Heise:

I enjoyed my recent visit to Lansing and appreciate the time you spent with our group discussing House Bill 4083. This legislation would create a mechanism to assist in funding anonymous tip organizations, such as Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer, by applying a small assessment to individuals convicted of misdemeanor and felony offenses.

Today, approximately 30 anonymous tip organizations currently exist across the State of Michigan serving the vast majority of our counties. These organizations allow individuals to anonymously contact a tip line and provide information about a crime or the whereabouts of a wanted fugitive. The tips are then forwarded to law enforcement and over the years have led to the arrest and prosecution of numerous felons and dangerous fugitives.

Over the past 20 years, I have served in various capacities in the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office. During that time, I have seen many crimes go unsolved because individuals were afraid or unwilling to testify against a perpetrator. Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations provide a unique avenue for those who would otherwise refuse to get involved to assist law enforcement in protecting the public. Unfortunately, many of these organizations are experiencing financial difficulties and without additional funding to supplement their current sources of revenue may be forced to discontinue providing this valuable service.

I support House Bill 4083 because it will allow these organizations to continue their efforts to provide law enforcement with valuable information that would otherwise go unreported. I believe that these organizations provide law enforcement with a unique and an invaluable crime fighting tool.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding the proposed legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

William Paul Nichols
Monroe County Prosecutor