

My name is Ponsella Hardaway and I am the director the MOSES organization here in Detroit. We are a Faith-Based Community Organization that believes all people should have access to opportunities. People in Detroit and surrounding communities want the opportunity to have good paying jobs, healthcare, transportation, safe neighborhoods and access to healthy foods.

Many residents in Detroit are suffering from major illnesses, such as diabetes, heart conditions, obesity from lack of access to fresh foods and vegetables. I culture has allowed the fast food industry and process foods to replace healthy alternatives. The economy has hit people hard. It is far cheaper to make meals with the fresh produce, meats and dairy that is flavorful and healthy? Less people are in the emergency rooms, hospital beds and Dialysis machines.

I would love for our policymakers to have a vision for building comprehensive communities where people have access to these opportunities. A grocery store can be the catalyst to build holistic healthy communities. I encourage our policymakers to support initiatives that build holistic communities, including support of local grocery stores, mass transit, and healthcare and workforce development.

*Create a Model store for the state*