

AS ADOPTED BY SENATE, JANUARY 28, 2021

SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A resolution to urge the Governor and the Michigan Department
2 of Health and Human Services to lift the suspension on high school
3 and youth sports and allow play to resume immediately.

4 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has upended nearly every aspect
5 of the public and private lives of people in Michigan and across
6 the world. The disruption of school closures in particular has had
7 a devastating impact on students as they grapple with academic
8 challenges and suffer from a lack of social and emotional benefits
9 that traditional in-person schooling provides; and

10 Whereas, In response to the Pandemic, the Governor and the
11 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have
12 ordered various suspensions of both contact and non-contact high
13 school and youth sports for different lengths of time. Most
14 recently, MDHHS announced that winter sports, including competitive



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1 cheer, wrestling, and boys and girls basketball, will be suspended
2 until February 21 - a full month after the previous suspension was
3 set to expire; and

4 Whereas, While the order is intended to be in the best
5 interests of the students, these types of prohibitions ignore other
6 very serious harms that students are facing from the continued
7 suspension of high school and youth sports. As a result of school
8 closures, students are suffering from crippling isolation which is
9 severely harming their mental health. According to a national
10 survey of more than 3,000 high school and college students
11 regarding coronavirus, 87 percent reported stress and anxiety,
12 while 57 percent reported that their mental health had worsened. In
13 addition, experts are concerned about potential increases in youth
14 suicide and argue that it is critically important for teenagers to
15 have regular contact with their peers. Allowing students to
16 participate in high school and youth sports would help reduce
17 social isolation and could significantly improve their mental
18 health; and

19 Whereas, There is little data available that demonstrates why
20 the continued suspension of high school and youth sports is
21 necessary. According to the Executive Director of the Michigan High
22 School Athletic Association, the negative rate for over 30,000
23 rapid COVID-19 tests conducted over the last three months with fall
24 sports was 99.8 percent. Furthermore, without school sports,
25 students will seek outside activities through club sports, which
26 could potentially lead to a larger spread of the virus as students
27 travel to various locations. In addition, other neighboring states
28 have allowed their students to participate in winter sports for
29 several weeks without any significant COVID-19 outbreaks; now,



1 therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor and the
3 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to lift the
4 suspension on high school and youth sports and allow play to resume
5 immediately; and be it further

6 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
7 Governor of Michigan and the Director of the Michigan Department of
8 Health and Human Services.

