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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: June 7, 2024

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 27 OF 2023

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of Michigan Senate Bill 27.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 27 OF 2023

WHEREAS, In early 2023, Michigan Senator Sarah Anthony introduced SB 27 of 2023, which is intended to expand access to mental health treatment by requiring insurance providers to provide coverage for mental health care at the same level as all other medical coverage; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2022 report by Mental Health America, a leading national nonprofit dedicated to mental health prevention, 56% of American adults with a mental illness receive no treatment, 54% of adults with a mental illness did not receive treatment despite having health insurance; and almost 25% of all adults with a mental illness reported they were not able to receive the treatment they needed for various reasons including limited insurance coverage;¹ and

WHEREAS, There is a great need for mental health care in Michigan and Detroit, as 2023 survey data from the Kaiser Family Foundation showed that roughly 30% of adults in Michigan reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder,² and 2021 survey data of Detroit Public Schools Community District students taken by the University of Michigan Department of Medicine showed shockingly high levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation;³ and

WHEREAS, There is also a growing need for substance abuse treatment, as instances of substance abuse disorders and drug overdoses rose drastically across the US during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, SB 27 prevents insurance providers from imposing increased financial or quantitative restrictions on mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment when compared to medical coverage, which includes deductibles, co-payments, and out-of-pocket maximums; and

WHEREAS, The legislation parallels the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, and will ensure that Michigan residents can retain their increased access to mental health care in the event that there is a change in law at the federal level in the future; and

WHEREAS, SB 27 passed both chambers of the Michigan legislature by a wide, bipartisan margin, and Governor Whitmer signed the bill in May of 2024; and

WHEREAS, The passage of this legislation demonstrates the increasing recognition that it is often just as vital to address mental health needs as it is to address physical medical conditions in order to have a healthier and more well-functioning society; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council strongly supports the passage of SB 27 of 2023; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

¹ <https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/2022%20State%20of%20Mental%20Health%20in%20America.pdf>

² <https://www.kff.org/statedata/mental-health-and-substance-use-state-fact-sheets/michigan/>

³ <https://www.michiganmedicine.org/health-lab/survey-assesses-student-mental-health-needs-detroit-schools>