


**David Whitaker, Esq.**  
*Director*  
**Irvin Corley, Jr.**  
*Executive Policy Manager*  
**Marcell R. Todd, Jr.**  
*Director, City Planning*  
*Commission*  
**Janese Chapman**  
*Director, Historic Designation*  
*Advisory Board*

**John Alexander**  
**LaKisha Barclift, Esq.**  
**Paige Blessman**  
**M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP**  
**Lisa DiChiera**  
**Eric Fazzini, AICP**  
**Willene Green**  
**Christopher Gulock, AICP**  
**Derrick Headd**  
**Marcel Hurt, Esq.**

**City of Detroit**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION**  
**208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48226**  
**Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336**

**Kimani Jeffrey**  
**Anthony W. L. Johnson**  
**Phillip Keller, Esq.**  
**Edward King**  
**Kelsey Maas**  
**Jamie Murphy**  
**Latawn Oden**  
**Dolores Perales**  
**Analine Powers, Ph.D.**  
**W. Akilah Redmond**  
**Rebecca Savage**  
**Sabrina Shockley**  
**Renee Short**  
**Floyd Stanley**  
**Thomas Stephens, Esq.**  
**Timarie Szwed**  
**Theresa Thomas**  
**Ian Tomashik**  
**Ashley A. Wilson**

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 1, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 567 AND 568 AND HOUSE BILL 5098**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution urging the Michigan legislature to pass Senate Bills 567 and 568 and House Bill 5098

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

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 567 AND 568 AND HOUSE BILL 5098**

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Charter provides that the City is committed “to the development and welfare of our youth, our most precious treasure...”; and

**WHEREAS,** The ability to read is one of the most important skills children can acquire and is fundamental to all education, as it allows them to increase their vocabulary and articulate themselves, it contributes to their sense of empathy and emotional awareness, and it is a gateway to learning a near infinite amount of knowledge and skills; and

**WHEREAS,** On June 4, 2024, the Michigan Senate passed Senate Bill 567 and 568, which were first introduced by Senator Jeff Irwin and Senator Dayna Polehanki, respectively, on October 5, 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** SB 567 would require state-approved screening practices in order to identify students who are struggling with dyslexia and to provide the necessary and appropriate instruction and support; and

**WHEREAS,** SB 568 would require teachers to receive training that would allow them to identify and address dyslexia in their students; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 5098, sponsored by Representative Carol Glanville, would create a dyslexia resource guide and an advisory committee within the Michigan Department of Education that consists of speech-language pathologists, educators, and literacy experts, with the goal of helping Michigan schools address the needs of students with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS,** Michigan’s literacy rates are ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in America and nearly 35% of the state’s third-grade students scored as “not proficient” on the M-STEP test in Spring of 2023;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** According to Data Driven Detroit’s State of the Detroit Child report, 86% of third-grade students in Detroit did not meet grade-level standards in English, Language, and Arts (ELA), which is 20% higher than the findings in Wayne County (71%) and 1.4 times the rate in Michigan (60%);<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the children who are behind in the development of reading skills likely have dyslexia, as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has found that as many as 20% of schoolchildren have dyslexia, depending on how it is measured;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** Given the prevalence of dyslexia, it is imperative to identify the signs early and to tailor education to support students and to ensure that they do not fall behind in their education and development; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council strongly urges the Michigan legislature to pass Senate Bills 567 and 568 and House Bill 5098; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2024/03/12/michigan-senate-dyslexia-screening-school-bill/72879236007/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sdc.datadrivendetroit.org/profiles/06000US2616322000-detroit-city-wayne-county-mi/#third-grade-ela-proficiency>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10871397/#:~:text=%5B8%5D%20The%20prevalence%20and%20pattern,prevalence%20of%205%E2%80%9315%25.>

**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.