



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

June 3, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today I am returning Enrolled House Bill 4728 to you without approval.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem.

Throughout this pandemic, MDHHS orders have played a key role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, preserving the ability of hospitals to care for their patients and saving thousands of lives. But now, the safe and effective vaccines are widely available and more than half of eligible Michiganders have received their first shot.

HB 4728 would strip MDHHS of pandemic powers at a time when Michigan is quickly returning to normal. As of June 1, capacity limits were lifted for outdoor events and residential gatherings, while indoor capacity limits increased to 50%, allowing social gatherings such as weddings and funerals to move closer to normalcy. Now, Michiganders may celebrate safely with family and friends, with less worry of getting COVID-19. On a personal note, I look forward to celebrating my daughter Sydney's graduation. We have all been working hard for this moment over the past fifteen months, and I am thankful for every Michigander who has gotten vaccinated to keep themselves, their family, and our communities safe.

Rather than sending me half-baked and punchless legislation like HB 4728, I encourage the Legislature to join me in eradicating this pandemic and making transformational investments in our economy. With federal relief funds headed our way and higher state revenues than expected, together we can create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, build up our crumbling infrastructure, support our kids and schools, and get back to a new normal as a stronger, more resilient state.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor