



**THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, it has been three months since the Federal Government allocated nearly \$5 billion dollars in COVID relief funds to Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds were intended to provide crucial relief to small businesses, public health, and education in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the state legislature passed legislation appropriating \$3.5 billion towards these priorities, including nearly \$555 million in small business relief funds; and

**WHEREAS**, despite bipartisan support for the small business relief proposals, the Governor line-item vetoed all \$555 million, citing “key points of difference” between her administration and the state legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, these proposals were promptly repackaged into subsequent legislation and sent back to the Governor’s desk; and

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, March 26, 2021, these proposals were vetoed by Governor Whitmer for a second time; and

**WHEREAS**, the state is due to receive another \$10 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Lansing still has not found a path forward on fully appropriating the \$5 billion it already received; and

**WHEREAS**, if there is one thing state leaders should agree on, it is getting help to the struggling small businesses in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative these funds be disbursed to job providers who are still fighting for solvency and survival; and

**WHEREAS**, passing state budgets are a shared responsibility between both branches and both political parties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor's Administration to reach a compromise with the Michigan Legislature and their recommended relief initiatives, in the very near future, that would release these funds into the hands of the businesses and communities that need it most.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to all Michigan counties, our State Legislature, the Governor’s office, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

**Respectfully,  
Berrien County Board of Commissioners**

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**R. McKinley Elliott**

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**Jim Curran**

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**Julie Wuerfel**

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**Ezra A. Scott**

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**David Vollrath**

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**Michael J. Majerek**

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**Don Meeks**

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**Teri Sue Freehling**

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**Robert P. Harrison**

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**Mamie L. Yarbrough**

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**Jon Hinkelman**

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**Rayonte D. Bell**