

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Representative

**DANIELA GARCÍA**

*90th House District*

(866) 908-4347 | [DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov)

[www.RepDanielaGarcia.com](http://www.RepDanielaGarcia.com)

April 26, 2016

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*Please feel free to share this legislative update. If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list, contact my office toll-free at 866-908-4347, or by e-mail at*

[DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov)

Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to the May edition of my e-newsletter for 2016!

As spring arrives in Ottawa County, budget season is in full swing in the Michigan House of Representatives. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have had input in crafting this year's budget. I hold office hours across the 90<sup>th</sup> District, each month, in order to give residents the opportunity to share their opinion on budgetary and legislative matters. This allows me to bring your voice to Lansing as I work on the issues that mean the most to you.

For the past five years, we have adopted a balanced budget months ahead of schedule to give our schools and local governments more time to prepare their budgets. It is my intention, along with the rest of the legislature, to pass a fiscally responsible budget that wisely invests your tax dollars once again this year.

I hope you find this email update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Daniela R. García  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> District

**Fiscal Year 2016-17 State Budget**

The House Appropriations Committee has been hard at work crafting a fiscally responsible budget that wisely invests in the areas that matter most to Michigan residents. Things are moving ahead quickly and we are on track to see our state budget completed ahead of schedule for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The Appropriations Committee has passed both budget bills; the General Omnibus Budget and the Education Omnibus Budget. These bills now sit before the full House for further consideration.

We are continuing the trend of responsibly investing your tax dollars in our public schools. Under this proposed budget, each school in the 90<sup>th</sup> District would see a \$120 increase in per pupil funding. The chart below compares the amount each of our local school districts received per student this year, and what they would receive next year.

School	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Black River Public School	\$7,391	\$7,511
Eagle Crest Charter Academy	\$7,391	\$7,511
Holland Public Schools	\$7,391	\$7,511
Hudsonville Public Schools	\$7,391	\$7,511
Innocademy	\$7,391	\$7,511
Vanderbilt Charter Academy	\$7,391	\$7,511
West Ottawa Public Schools	\$7,391	\$7,511
Zeeland Public Schools	\$7,391	\$7,511

The House Higher Education Budget provides funding for each of Michigan’s 15 public universities. House Republicans have fought hard to ensure each university’s independent governing body does not dramatically raise tuition on Michigan families. An increase in state funding is distributed under a formula that restrains tuition increases to 4.8% or \$500, whichever is more.

Our veterans are also a top priority in this budget. The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs would see an increase in funding. The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans would receive \$5 million for renovations to bring the facility under a proper set of standards for high quality care. The D.J. Jacobetti Home in Marquette would receive an additional \$1.1 million. Another \$2.5 would be appropriated to fund upgrades at our National Guard Armories.

Though this **budget is not yet complete**, I fully expect to see a balanced budget passed into law ahead of schedule once again

this year. I am grateful to serve as your voice in Lansing, and always welcome your ideas for our state budget or any other legislative matter.

## **Student Restraint and Seclusion Practices**

One of school officials' most important responsibilities is to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students and school employees. Some schools have used the practice of restraining and secluding students as a method of behavior modification and control.

Legislation has been introduced in the House that would require schools to adopt and implement a policy that regulates the practices of physically restraining and secluding students.

In 2006, the State Board of Education adopted standards on the emergency use of restraint and seclusion. However, these guidelines are merely suggestions and do not carry the force of law. House Bills 5409-5418 would ban the use of these ineffective and dangerous practices in our schools, except in certain specified emergencies.

These bills now sit before the House Education Committee, where I serve as Majority Vice-Chair. The Committee has taken testimony on these bills from parents, educators, and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who has been a strong voice on this topic.

## **District Office Hours**

Each month, I will sponsor office hours in Hudsonville, Zeeland, and Holland. My next meetings take place on Monday, May 2:

- Hudsonville hours will take place at the Gary Byker Memorial Library (3388 Van Buren Street) at 11am.
- Zeeland hours will take place at the Howard Miller Public Library (14 South Church Street) at 1pm.
- Holland hours will take place at the Herrick District Library (300 South River Avenue) at 3pm.

No appointment is necessary. Residents who are otherwise

unable to meet during my scheduled office hours may contact my Lansing office at (517) 373-0830 or by e-mailing me at [DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanielaGarcia@house.mi.gov).

Please stop by and say hello!

## Upcoming District Events

- “More Than Tulips” Garden Tours  
Date: Sunday, May 1  
Time: All day  
Location: Windmill Island Gardens, Holland
- Tulip Time  
Date: Saturday, May 7 – Saturday, May 14  
Location: Downtown Holland
- West Coast Chamber Early Bird Breakfast  
Date: Tuesday, May 10  
Time: 7:00am – 8:30am  
Location: Haworth Inn, Holland
- West Coast Chamber Government Affairs Breakfast  
Date: Monday, May 16  
Time: 7:30am – 8:30am  
Location: Alpenrose Restaurant, Holland
- Spring Peddler’s Market  
Date: Saturday, May 21  
Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Location: Downtown Zeeland
- Zeeland Memorial Day Parade  
Date: Monday, May 30  
Time: 9:30am  
Location: Downtown Zeeland
- Hudsonville Memorial Day Ceremony  
Date: Monday, May 30  
Time: 10:00am  
Location: Veteran's Park, Hudsonville

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