Dear Neighbor,

I’ve been extremely busy at the Capitol fighting for issues important to you. I’m committed to moving our communities forward in several different ways. Since January, we’ve worked to strengthen education, fix our roads and bridges, make government more transparent and approve a responsible state budget.

During my regular office hours, I’ve heard a great deal about your priorities and the concerns of many families. It’s so important for me to travel across the district every week to meet face-to-face with people and local leaders. Listening to you helps me be the best representative possible.

I will continue to put your needs before politics and lobbyists. There is no such thing as good enough when it comes to hard-working Michigan taxpayers, so I am working every day on reforms to improve life in our communities. Inside you will find a summary of our efforts and accomplishments so far.

As always, if I can provide assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at any time. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Julie Calley
State Representative

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CALLEY SUPPORTS GIVING HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN SKILLED TRADES

Education should not be a one-size-fits-all approach. With continuous advances in technology and workforce needs, I’m working to ensure our students obtain the necessary skills to be successful in a career and in life.

It’s important to recognize that not all high-school students will go on to college. We improved access to skilled trades training through career and technical education so students are prepared for high-paying, in-demand jobs. This gives young adults the opportunity to choose a vocational career if it suits their skill sets.

There are not enough trained workers available for these jobs. I will continue to support and expand opportunities for high-school students and post-high school graduates to obtain the training necessary to fill and keep these important positions.

MOST FUNDING IN STATE’S HISTORY NOW ALLOCATED TO FIX ROADS

To help keep Michigan drivers safe and encourage economic growth, we are now allocating the most funding ever to fix roads and bridges in Michigan.

In 2015, the Legislature approved an unprecedented plan to finally fix the problem. This year, we started seeing the results of this dynamic plan. For the 2016-17 fiscal year, more than $2.4 billion will be used to improve local, county and state roadways. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, more than $2.6 billion will be dedicated.

Unfortunately, no state general fund dollars were spent to improve our roads from 2002-2011. So as our economy fell into disrepair during that time, our infrastructure did as well. It’s going to take time to properly fix our roads and bridges, but we’re making the right decisions and making it a priority.
CALLEY DEMANDS HONEST AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

I helped pass common sense legislation in March to increase transparency and accountability in state government. Our bills require the governor to be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The legislation also creates a similar transparency requirement for all state legislators.

Michigan is one of only two states that still exempts its governor, lieutenant governor and the Legislature from sunshine laws. It’s time we remove these exemptions and help improve government accountability.

The plan:

• Makes state government more accountable to you;
• Opens the records of the governor and Legislature;
• Protects your private information.

CALLEY COMMITTED TO PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OPIOID ADDICTION

The opioid epidemic continues to plague our state and nation. Prescription drug abuse has become one of the fastest-growing public health concerns.

I supported legislation to help protect young people from becoming addicted to opioid medications. The plan requires the Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission to develop recommendations for student curricula addressing the risks associated with prescription drug abuse.

It is our duty to educate young people about the risks and potential for dependence when using opioid medications. We can’t expect this epidemic to go away on its own; it’s up to us to protect the next generation from the life-threatening ramifications of addiction.

I am committed to pursuing other initiatives as well to help ensure that everyone in Michigan is safe.
In March, the House voted yes on a Criminal Justice reform package. This package of Senate bills was four years in the making aimed at reducing recidivism. Each inmate costs us an average of $35,000 per year. Helping inmates find another path after incarceration has a threefold benefit. First, they are no longer dependent on the taxpayers. Second, once employed they are participating in the taxation system and therefore supporting other citizens. Last, and most importantly, if there is no new crime, there are no additional victims. This package of bills was signed by the Governor on April 18. I am pleased to announce that I have been assigned to the following committees which are important to our community:

- Health Policy
- Agriculture
- Transportation
- Ethics & Elections

I value feedback from community members, along with the opportunity to address questions and concerns. Therefore, I have held office hours in many communities. Attendees first hear a legislative update. Then, if residents have individual concerns or confidentiality is a concern, I am available for individual meetings. To find out when and where my next office hours will be held, please contact my office.

Our current package cost us an average of $35,000 per inmate. This package ended recidivism decades before. Inmates who were released before this package were released under a no-reentry policy. The recidivism rate was 4.2%. This package reduced the recidivism rate to zero. The savings were approximately $335,000 per year.