Dear Neighbor,

The policy decisions we make at the state Capitol have consequences. Every vote I take will have either a positive or negative impact on the lives of Michigan residents. My priority is to fight for legislation that will positively affect the hard-working people of our local community and make decisions to improve life for everyone.

For example, we can make life better by limiting the size of government and rejecting the failed policies of the past. I’m proud to say we’ve made the decision to reduce the state’s overall general budget spending and we continue to pay down debt.

In addition, we are making life better by spending a record amount for roads and bridges, which will improve our daily commutes and strengthen the state’s economy. The funding we allocated this year for K-12 public schools is the most in our state’s history, and it makes life better by giving all students a greater chance at success.

And here’s another thing that will make life better: reducing the cost of car insurance. We pay the highest rates in the nation by far. It’s unacceptable. No one should have to decide whether to pay their car insurance or put food on the table for their children. We are closer than ever to implementing a solution to give drivers more choice in coverage, protect medical care for drivers injured in auto accidents, combat fraud and abuse, and lower rates.

The people in our community are on the front of my mind before taking every vote. It makes no difference whether it’s a Republican or Democrat idea. If it doesn’t make life better for the people I proudly represent, it doesn’t get my vote. Period. I will continue to stick to my guns and stand up to special interests and lobbyists to do what is best for us. You have my word.

Sincerely,

BEAU L. LaFAVE
State Representative
High school students given 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’ve worked hard to ensure our students obtain the necessary skills to be successful in a career and in life.

Not all high school students will go on to college. We improved access to skilled trades training through career and technical education so these students are prepared for high-paying, in-demand jobs.

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

In the U.P., we all know small communities like ours do not have the resources other schools offer. Therefore, I supported legislation to allow eligible Upper Peninsula high school students in districts along the Michigan state border improved access to dual enrollment options in Wisconsin. In addition to this, I introduced House Bill 4106 that would give high school students credit for completion of an internship or work study program.

Controversial driver responsibility fees eliminated under legislation

I support legislation to eliminate Michigan’s misguided and ineffective driver responsibility fees. Driver responsibility fees were initiated by politicians in 2003 as a scheme to plug a hole they created in the state budget. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents have been burdened with the fees, which have either taken them out of the job market or forced them to drive illegally to support their families.

This is a bad law that should never have been passed in the first place. It did nothing to improve driving skills and it’s about time we end this failed policy. The elimination of driver responsibility fees and restoration of driving privileges will help people get back to work so they can earn a living and provide for their families.

The legislation completely forgives the outstanding fines owed by more than 300,000 Michigan drivers, ending the ineffective program by Oct. 1, 2018.

House CARES Task Force working to help people with mental health challenges

The bipartisan House CARES Task Force was created to help Michigan residents with mental health challenges live happier, healthier and more independent lives.

The task force held meetings throughout the summer and early fall to receive input from individuals and professionals around the state. The task force also toured facilities to gain a better understanding of programs already available.

Holding meetings and visiting facilities all across Michigan allowed the team to gather feedback on a wide variety of topics related to mental health care, opioid abuse, rehabilitation programs, and vocational training.

We wanted to make sure the people of Michigan were part of the process, so they were encouraged to share their ideas. Information gathered at CARES meetings will help legislators develop solutions to improve services for people experiencing mental illness.

LaFave fights for reform plan to cut car insurance rates

I voted in favor of a plan in the state House to fix Michigan’s broken car insurance system and significantly lower rates for drivers.

Michigan now has the highest car insurance rates in the nation. We are number one for all the wrong reasons. The legislation will lower the cost of car insurance by offering motorists more coverage options, reining in medical costs and fighting fraud.

The bipartisan legislation continues benefits for Michiganders already receiving lifetime health care after a catastrophic traffic accident. The plan also gives motorists the option to continue to buy unlimited personal injury protection (PIP) coverage or buy more affordable alternative coverage plans.

LaFave demands more honest and open government

I helped pass common-sense legislation 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.

State budget more focused on what matters: Schools, roads, public safety and ending debt

I helped approve a balanced state budget months ahead of the constitutional deadline that controls spending while prioritizing your hard-earned tax dollars on things that matter most. In order to encourage a timely budget, I supported a resolution to withhold legislators’ salaries if the state budget was not passed by July 1.

This year, we dedicated more state funding to K-12 education than ever before, totaling $14.6 billion. We put special emphasis on skilled trades training through career and technical education. I also sponsored HB 5093 to increase retirement funding for thousands of teachers.

This budget also spends more on our roads, bridges and underground water systems than ever before. I know how vital good roads and safe bridges are to families and job creators in Michigan.

Public safety is also a priority of mine, and we continue to invest in your safety. This budget adds 150 more Michigan State Police troopers, increasing safety on our highways and in our communities.

I have fought to conserve your hard-earned tax dollars, and this budget spends fewer state taxpayer dollars than last year’s budget. Just like families across the state, we are tightening our belt, reducing the size of government and forcing it to live within its means. This budget also pays down millions of dollars in debt, helping relieve our liability and open the door for a more secure financial future for our children and grandchildren.

LaFave’s LaFavorite jobs

I support making it easier to create jobs in our communities. Everyone knows small businesses are the heartbeat of the U.P. So, I have traveled to various locally owned businesses and participated in their day-to-day operations in recognition of their importance. Please contact my office at (517) 373-0156 if you would like me to visit your business.

LaFave’s LaFavorite info

Protects your private information.

Opens the records of the governor and Legislature.

Makes state government more accountable to you.

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