Dear Neighbor,

The decisions we make at the state Capitol have consequences. Every vote I take impacts the lives of Michigan residents. My priority is to fight for legislation that will positively affect the hard-working people of the Greater Rochester area and make decisions to improve life for everyone across our state.

My colleagues and I have focused on what matters by limiting the size of government and rejecting the failed policies of the past. I’m proud to say that our most recent state budget includes a reduction in state spending as we continue to pay down our long-term debt.

We are now spending a record amount of money on roads and bridges to improve our daily lives and strengthen Michigan’s economy. Funding for K-12 public schools is at the highest level in our state’s history because we all know what an important role our children play both today and tomorrow.

It is a privilege to serve the people of the Greater Rochester area as your state representative. You will always be at the front of my mind before every vote that I take on the House floor. It makes no difference whether a bill is a Republican or Democrat idea. If it doesn’t make life better for the people I proudly represent, it doesn’t get my vote. I will continue to stand up to special interests and fight to do what is best for us. You have my word.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL WEBBER
State Representative

(517) 373-1773 • MichaelWebber@house.mi.gov
www.RepMichaelWebber.com
We wanted to make sure the people of Michigan were part of the process, so they were holding meetings and visiting facilities all across Michigan allowed the team to gain a better understanding of programs already available.

The task force held meetings throughout the summer and early fall to receive input on mental health challenges live happier, healthier and more independent lives. This is key in good government and the public has a right to know who is funding elections in Michigan.

House Bill 4459 would allow a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail to vote by absentee ballot if they present a valid form of identification to any county, city or township clerk. Under current law, only individuals registered to vote in person may vote absentee to cast their first official ballot. The bill would remove red tape and allow more young people, particularly college students, the opportunity to vote in our elections.

House Bill 4671 was recently passed by the House Elections and Ethics Committee to allow a local community to contract with another unit of government to provide election administration services. Local communities can benefit from forming partnerships with nearby cities and townships to more efficiently perform elections duties and better serve residents while saving taxpayer dollars.

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.

I voted to 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.

This year, we dedicated more state funding to K-12 education than ever before in Michigan history, totaling $14.6 billion. We put special emphasis on skilled trades training through career and technical education.

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.

Controversial driver responsibility fees eliminated

I voted in favor of 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.

Auto Insurance Reform

Many residents of the Greater Rochester area have been following the debate surrounding auto insurance in Lansing. I support reforming our no-fault system and believe that there are several proposals that would result in real rate reductions for Michigan drivers while maintaining the high quality of care that accident victims receive in our state.

I have sponsored legislation as part of a bipartisan package of bills that reduces unnecessary litigation expenses, brings much needed transparency to the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, and creates a state fraud authority to oversee both health care providers and insurance companies to combat fraud and abuse that increase costs to drivers.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues in the House and the Senate on both sides of the aisle to find a real solution, unlike House Bill 5013, which recently failed in the House.

I voted in favor of legislation to prohibit local governments from imposing taxes on the manufacture, distribution, and sale of food and beverages.

Purchasing groceries can represent a large portion of a family’s monthly budget, and our bill prevents local communities from placing an undue burden on families and farmers.

Other legislation introduced by Rep. Webber

2017 has been a busy year as I introduced legislation that focuses on protecting the residents of the Greater Rochester area. A few additional examples include:

House Bill 4415 is aimed to protect local drivers by allowing for additional local control when it comes to speed limits on gravel roads. Our local road commissions and municipalities should be able to set speed limits on gravel roads without interference from the state, which would happen if this legislation passes.

House Bill 4504 would codify the existing rule that two liquor retailers be located a minimum of a half-mile apart from each other into state law. This legislation is necessary following a recent decision by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to rescind this rule unilaterally. In the highly regulated alcohol market, the “half-mile rule” is an important protection for retailers, residents and local communities alike.

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