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# IDEN iNews

## I den at Work

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REGULATORY REFORM, CHAIRMAN – COMMERCE & TRADE  
WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT – OVERSIGHT

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Dear Friends,

Spring has finally arrived! I was thankful to spend so much time in district recently, seeing many new faces and discussing what you think state government should be doing to better serve you.

Here in Lansing, the budget continues to be a primary focus, as we work to ensure a responsible and comprehensive plan to best serve all Michigan

residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your voice here at the Capitol. Please feel free to reach out to my office at any time on any issue, and I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandt Iden', written over a white background.

Brandt Iden

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### CONTACT THE OFFICE:

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\*\*Due to House policy, most photos are eliminated from this newsletter copy.

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## Coffee Hours



One of my most important jobs as a legislator is listening to my community. Coffee hours are a great way to talk with me directly about the topics that matter most to you.\*

**Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> | 9:30 - 11:00am**  
**Rise N Dine**  
**121 S. Main St., Vicksburg, MI 49097**

**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> | 9:30 - 11:00am**  
**Rykse & Co Market and Eatery**  
**7141 West Q Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009**

\* Coffee Hours are subject to change. Please contact my office for updates or confirmation.

## ENCOURAGING EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Every student's path is different, but I want to help ensure that all paths lead to success. My recent bill, House Bill 5676, makes it possible to allow students to obtain high school credit for an outside internship. An internship offers an opportunity to develop important work experience and to develop career interests. Our policies should encourage this kind of out-of-the-classroom education.

My bill, HB 5676 and Rep. LaFave's bill, HB 4106 passed the House with bipartisan support and are now before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and International Investment.



## Changes from the Chair

### ENSURING FAIRNESS FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

The House Committee on Regulatory Reform visits a variety of issues including alcohol regulations, gaming laws, construction codes, housing law, and so many others.

In committee, we recently had the opportunity to hear testimony on a bill that fixes what I believe was an oversight in prior alcohol legislation.

The law currently permits one specially designated merchant license [SDM] for every one thousand residents, effectively disenfranchising all towns, villages, and townships under 1,000 population. With this update, a reasonable SDM quota is established for our smaller Michigan communities.

### DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED!



My resolution, HR 312, declared April 24, 2018 as Distracted Driving Awareness Day in Michigan. Distracted driving can take many different forms and has costly and tragic consequences. As a community, we need to consistently remind our neighbors, our friends and family, and even ourselves that texts can wait, emails can wait, and the task of driving should have our full attention.

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## MARCH WAS READING MONTH!

I celebrated reading month by visiting classrooms around our community. I read to the students, talked with them about state government, and stressed the importance and fun of reading.

A huge thank you to all of the teachers, faculty, and students who welcomed me – keep reading!

### UPCOMING: SUMMER READING PROGRAM

To continue to stress the importance of reading skills, my office will be hosting a summer reading contest. As the school year nears an end, please call our office for more details.

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## F.A.Q. from you

### HOW DOES THE HOUSE COMMITTEE PROCESS TYPICALLY WORK?

A committee is made up of a group of representatives who focus on legislation on a particular topic. The chairperson of a committee makes the decision if and when to take up a specific bill for consideration.

Different chairs can make varying decisions about their general committee process, but most House committees hear testimony on a bill in one meeting and take a vote in a later meeting.

Committee members have the option of offering changes to a bill, and can vote yes, no, or pass when the chair calls a vote. Legislation passes with a majority vote and passed bills move on to the Floor for further consideration.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

### CONTINUING TO KEEP OUR KIDS AND OUR SCHOOLS SAFE

Children, and even adults, don't always feel comfortable telling someone else about a particular threat or serious concern. OK2SAY is a program that allows students and adults to confidentially report a tip of a suspected or known harm.

A tip can be reported 24 hours a day via phone, text message, email, or on the OK2SAY website or mobile app. This past March, there were 980 tips, including 195 about suicide threats, 131 concerning a planned attack, and 47 regarding sexual assault and misconduct.

This is a creative program that builds communication between students, the school community, and law enforcement. This program has been successful thus far and I recently introduced House Bill 5850 which allows OK2SAY to continue into the future.

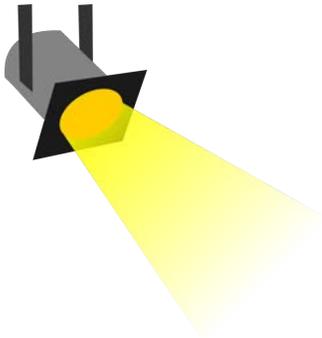
### TO REPORT A TIP:

CALL	1-8-555OK2SAY 1-855-565-2729
TXT	652729 (OK2SAY)
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:ok2say@mi.gov">ok2say@mi.gov</a>
WEB	<a href="http://www.mi.gov/ok2say">www.mi.gov/ok2say</a>

## BRINGING ATTENTION TO PROBLEM GAMBLING: HOUSE RESOLUTION 248

Michigan has a variety of options for legal gaming, and this activity must be enjoyed responsibly. I recently sponsored House Resolution 248, bringing attention to problem gambling and to the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services. If you would like to know more about problem gambling, or are concerned about yourself or someone else, please contact my office or call the **Michigan Problem Gambling Help Line at 1-800-270-7117**.

### Community Spotlight



I recently had the privilege of presenting a Hometown Health Hero award to our very own Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health [SWMBH]. The award is given to only 16 individuals and organizations across Michigan that have exhibited superior commitment to protecting and improving health in the community. SWMBH was specifically recognized for its opioid overdose prevention programs, and I am so thankful for their work in our neighborhoods.

### SCHEMES, SCAMS, OR SALES?

Most of us have heard of companies like Mary Kay, Avon, or The Pampered Chef, which are direct sales companies that are sometimes misunderstood as pyramid schemes.

Pyramid schemes typically rely almost solely on recruitment of new sellers, and do not have an established product for sale. On the other hand, direct sale and multi-level marketing companies allow individuals to sell product for commission. The Michigan law regarding pyramid schemes and direct sale companies has not been updated in years.

My bill, House Bill 5729, is included in a package of bills that together clarify and strengthen regulation surrounding these two types of businesses. The bill had no opposition in committee and received bipartisan support. The legislation has now been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!

Portage Memorial Day Parade  
Monday, May 28 @ 10:00am

Vicksburg Memorial Day Parade  
Monday, May 28 @ 10:00am

