



**HEALTHY KIDS
HEALTHY MICHIGAN**

October 4, 2019

House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: Recreation Passport Opt-Out (HB 4486, 4775, 4776)

Chair O'Malley and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

Healthy Kids Healthy Michigan (HKHM) is comprised of executive-level decision makers from a number of organizations statewide dedicated to improving the health of Michigan's youngest residents. HKHM advocates and collaborates on strategic policy initiatives to ensure that all children in Michigan have the opportunity for optimal health and well-being.

HKHM supports efforts to increase access to active recreational opportunities in communities across the state. We support efforts of government agencies and community groups to remove barriers to physical activity as an integral component of healthy living. In reviewing the policy before you today, we support **HB 4486 (Howell)**, and related House and Senate legislation that moves the process for obtaining the Recreation Passport to an "opt-out" rather than the current "opt-in" approach.

We understand that this change has the potential to increase resources for state parks and local recreation grants to allow for safe and equitable spaces for families to be physically active and recreate. Many youth health indicators have been found to greatly influence lifetime risk for conditions such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Along with access to healthy foods, education, and appropriate healthcare, maintaining and improving community space that promotes physical activity is a core component of HKHM's policy recommendations to give kids the chance to avoid or mitigate many of the chronic health conditions that have become so prevalent in America.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Schepers
Chair, Healthy Kids Healthy Michigan