



WAYNE STATE
Office of the President

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Albert
Appropriations Chair
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Chair Albert,

On behalf of our 27,000 students; 7,100 faculty, staff and team members, and more than 274,000 proud Wayne State University alumni around the world, I would like to express my deep concern about and opposition to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 proposed budget approved by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and Community Colleges for Michigan's 15 public institutes of higher education.

Wayne State University is Michigan's only public urban research university, located in the heart of Detroit. Our mission is to create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities. Our guiding values cut across organizational boundaries, bind us culturally, and permeate our strategic and tactical initiatives. They are the defining traits of the WSU community. We are constantly striving for excellence, balancing that against the need for educational affordability, through collaborative opportunities, innovation, and holding ourselves accountable to the needs of our students.

Our students hail from nearly all 83 counties of this state, and represent some of the best and brightest who will rise to the challenges of the future. Our Warriors helped develop the COVID-19 vaccines now making the return to normal a real possibility, they put in endless hours serving on the frontlines during the pandemic to ensure Michigan residents had access to care in a time of dire need, they're business incubators who are actively rebuilding our state's economy, and they are the next generation of our state's workforce.

Annually we calculate our WSU economic impact to be \$2.5 billion, more than 80% of our Law School alumni live and work in Michigan, nearly 40% of Michigan's practicing physicians received some or all of their medical training at Wayne, WSU and our University Research Corridor counterparts bring in 94% of the state's federal research dollars and \$640 million in tax revenue for the state of Michigan, and we're the 10th largest employer in the City of Detroit. Our alumni live, work, thrive, and grow Michigan's economy. As we face a time where the state will be rebuilding post pandemic, an investment in Wayne State University and in public higher education is one that has an incredibly high return.

However, each dollar that is stripped away from Wayne State University and any of the other 15 public universities is a dollar that our students may have to replace on their own. Each time funding is cut, we have to make hard choices regarding our tuition rates, our programmatic offerings, our ability to offer heartier financial aid packages, and our ability to retain faculty and



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staff. We are doing everything in our power to keep education affordable and attainable, and we implore you to invest in our students and in Wayne State University.

I'm deeply disheartened to hear rhetoric suggesting a lack of faith in higher education, not seeing the value we bring to Michigan, and therefore not seeing our students as the future of our state's success. Our students deserve investment, they deserve to be valued, and they deserve affordable and accessible high-level public post-secondary education. I request that you reassess your budget and consider making sincere investments in public higher education. We stand ready to prepare the state's next generation workforce, to build Michigan's economy, to anchor our local communities, to create solutions to today's problems through research, and most importantly to serve as one of 15 proud public institutions in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Roy Wilson'.

M. Roy Wilson
President