



Celebrating 45 years of Action!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Patrick Horan, *Chair*
Retired
Community Volunteer

Dorothy McClendon, *Vice Chair*
Retired Social Worker
Community Volunteer

Elishae Johnson, PhD, LPC, TLLP,
CAADC
Second Vice Chair
Manager, Business Operations
BBC HelpNet

Preston Hicks, PhD, LPC
Secretary
Owner
PH&A Management Consultants

Jim Treadwell, *Treasurer*
Retired
Community Volunteer

Joseph P. Miller, AIF®, AIFA®
Member at Large
President
Miller Financial Services, LLC

The Reverend Brian Coleman
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Theresa Dawson, DNP, MSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
Oaklawn Hospital

Daniel Graham, CFP, ChFC, RICP
Managing Partner
Summit Bay Private Wealth Advisors

Stanley H. Horn, CWA
Wealth Advisor
J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, LLC

Allison K. Graham
Student
Harper Creek High School

Hunter King
Actor, Student
Western Michigan University

Linda A. Morrison
Finance Director
City of Battle Creek

Linda M. Wendt
Retired Consultant

PRESIDENT & CEO
Brenda L. Hunt

For good. For ever. For all.

December 4, 2019

The Honorable Lynn Afendoulis, Chair, and
Members of the House Tax Policy Committee
Room 521, House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

32 W. Michigan Avenue
Suite 1
Battle Creek, Michigan
49017-3505

269.962.2181 tel
269.962.2182 fax

bccf@bccfoundation.org
www.bccfoundation.org

RE: Battle Creek Community Foundation support for House Bill 4993 and House Bill 4992

Good morning Chairman Afendoulis and Members of the House Tax Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Battle Creek Community Foundation and its affiliates, we appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 4993 and House Bill 4992, which would reinstate the tax credit for community foundations.

As a community foundation we exist to improve the entire community. We manage, grow, and distribute assets to promote equitable opportunity for all residents in our area, particularly in the areas of education, health, and community safety. We have also recently increased our efforts to support community and economic development, including providing impact investing loans and guarantees to both nonprofit and for-profit businesses, resulting in increased employment opportunities and community vitality, which in turn impacts the local economy and tax base.

The Michigan Community Foundation Tax credit has historically played a vital role in our ability to improve the community and in the growth of our Foundation. A significant portion of our \$135 million in assets can be directly attributed to contributions from donors who began their relationships with the Battle Creek Community Foundation because of the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. Since its elimination in 2012, we have seen an impact of nearly \$100,000 annually on contributions to the Foundation, as donors reduced or eliminated their giving.

Our growth and ability to meet the ever-changing needs of our community is also dependent in large part on our ability to acquire new donors. In recent years, attracting new donors has become more and more challenging, especially among young donors, but the reinstatement of the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit could help turn the tide.

By limiting the tax credit to gifts made to endowment funds, those gifts will continue to support the community in perpetuity, ensuring that we are able to provide funding to support our region's nonprofits in both good times and in bad. Endowment gifts also have the ability to provide increased financial stability to the nearly 100 nonprofit organizations that hold endowments at the community foundation, as their donors are incentivized to expand their support to their endowments.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our support for House Bill 4993 and House Bill 4992. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Brenda L. Hunt
President and CEO