



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Appropriations Committee  
From: Joshua Lunger, Sr. Director of Government Affairs  
Subject: House Bills 5761 & 5810  
Date: June 17, 2020

### **Re: Support for House Bills 5761 & 5810**

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Chair Hernandez and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Grand Rapids Chamber has spent the last several months pursuing every potential avenue to help West Michigan businesses survive the pandemic and the shutdown initiated to protect public health.

Businesses such as theatres, restaurants, event and sports venues rely on the gathering of people and have an outsized impact on the fabric of our communities. They also have been the hardest hit by the virus through no fault of their own and have the most uncertainty in the long road ahead. One of the most significant and growing concerns we heard from businesses like these was the approaching summer property tax bills.

Summer property tax is one of the largest single bills a business receives a year. For those businesses who expect to earn nearly zero revenue this year, or just a fraction of their regular revenue, it is a quickly approaching threat.

House Bills 5761 and 5810 seek to provide a short-term lifeline for these severely impacted businesses and individuals. The legislation would allow for an extension of only the summer 2020 property tax without the threat of interest or fees. This is not forgiveness and the entire bill is still owed, but it allows for employers a little more time to get their feet back under them and begin earning revenue. The bills also require applicants to file before the end of August and sign an affidavit affirming the impact of COVID on their inability to pay.

We appreciate the on-going dialogue with local governments and the amendments made to help support their cashflow, and we are committed to continuing discussions with all stakeholders.

**This legislation will help businesses survive and contribute to our recovery, and it is a top, urgent priority for the Grand Rapids Chamber. We urge you to vote "Yes" on House Bills 5761 and 5810.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at [josh@grandrapids.org](mailto:josh@grandrapids.org) or 616.771.0336 with any questions.