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RANDY RICHARDVILLE
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
THE MICHIGAN SENATE

March 18, 2014

Jeff M. Fettig
Chair, Board of Directors
Business Leaders for Michigan
600 Renaissance Center, Suite 1760
Detroit, MI 48243

Dear Mr. Fettig,

It is my pleasure to share my support for the Governor's proposed increase to higher education in the budget this year.

Over the last three years, Michigan has made significant economic and financial strides. With changes to state tax structure and balanced budgets reported months ahead of schedule, Michigan's economy has grown from a \$1.5 billion deficit in 2011 to over \$1 billion dollar surplus and received recognition by upgrades from all three bond rating agencies.

Michigan's continued recovery relies on the strength and innovation of our workforce. I strongly believe that investing in education is investing in our future. From preschool to college, students need the tools to continue the tradition of Michigan's hardworking talented workforce.

The Governor's FY15 Budget Proposal includes increases to education that will give children the opportunity to achieve success. The proposal will allow more students to start school ready learn and increase college affordability to continue to grow Michigan's talent pool.

Thank you for your continued interest and investment in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Randy Richardville', written over a large, stylized flourish.

Senator Randy Richardville
Senate Majority Leader
17th District