

For Immediate Release

Feb. 25, 2026

Jeff Donofrio, President and CEO of Business Leaders For Michigan, issued the following statements after Gov. Whitmer's 2026 State of the State address:

On Education:

“Michigan’s drop to 44th in fourth-grade literacy underscores the urgent need for change so that every child can read. Progress requires a comprehensive, proven approach: a strong curriculum aligned to the science of reading, well-supported educators, clear expectations and consistent implementation with fidelity across districts. We appreciate Governor Whitmer’s leadership to advance strategies that, when executed effectively, can drive meaningful gains for students. Money alone will not solve this challenge; results will come from disciplined implementation and a relentless focus on outcomes.

“Business Leaders For Michigan is committed to advancing evidence-based, results-driven strategies. States like Mississippi, and leaders such as former [Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright](#), demonstrate what’s possible with aligned leadership, the right formula for success and persistence across terms of office. We remain focused on ensuring every child has the foundation to read, succeed and compete.”

On Housing:

“To lower costs and increase economic opportunity, it’s essential we follow the lead of communities around the country making it easier to [build and grow](#). We’re pleased to hear Governor Whitmer’s push to speed up and make it more affordable to build housing in Michigan. States that clear the path move forward — those that don’t, fall behind.”

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About Business Leaders For Michigan: [Business Leaders For Michigan](#) is a statewide, nonpartisan organization driven by CEOs from the state’s leading employers, all working toward a shared goal: making Michigan a Top 10 state for jobs, talent and a thriving economy. Guided by research and diverse perspectives, they develop strategies, shape public policy and drive initiatives that bring people and ideas together to ignite change – for growth, shared prosperity, and lasting progress. For Michigan.