

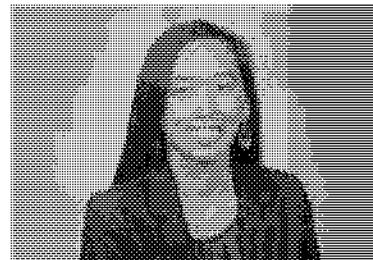
From: State Representative Stephanie Chang <stephaniechang@house.mi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 2:07 PM
To: stephaniechang@house.mi.gov
Subject: Capitol Update and Community Events



June 4, 2015

Friends,

Below are some updates about the water affordability and safety training I co-convened at the Capitol this week, recent votes on the state budget and announcements about upcoming events in District 6!



I'm here to help:

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Water Affordability and Safety Hearing

On June 3, together with Representatives Sheldon Neeley and LaTanya Garrett, I convened a hearing at the State Capitol on water affordability and safety. We heard testimony from residents of Detroit, Flint and Highland Park about the Michigan water crisis. Thousands of shut-offs in Detroit and the water quality issues in Flint have led to serious public health concerns for our most vulnerable residents. This hearing was not only an important step to raise awareness about water affordability and quality issues, but also an opportunity to move toward legislative action regarding the human right to safe, clean and affordable water, shut-off protections, and transparency.

Since January 2013, more than 53,000 Detroit residents have had their water and sewerage service terminated. Around 15,000 homes have had this service restored. There is financial assistance available, but many on this assistance are still behind

on their payments. In April 2014, Flint switched from the Detroit water system to its own system that draws water from the Flint River. Since then, residents have put up with water that tastes and smells strange, high E-coli levels that forced boil water advisories, skin rashes and hair loss. Flint residents have also faced issues relating to Total Trihalomethane monitoring and acceptable levels for safe consumption.

We need to ensure that our communities have safe, drinkable and affordable water. People going without water or not being able to drink what comes out of the tap is unthinkable. My colleagues and I are committed to sharing the stories we heard today with other legislators and working on ways to ensure that what's happened to these communities never happens again anywhere in Michigan.

State Budget Update

On Wednesday, the State House voted on the omnibus budget. I had some concerns about specific items in the budget, but overall, I believe there are significant positives that will help residents in District 6. That is why I voted yes. The major concerns I had were 1) the closing of the Maxey Boys Training School, 2) the lack of funding for cancer presumption for firefighters, and 3) the closing of DHS offices. However, there were some incredibly important positives in this budget for our residents, such as 1) restoration of Detroit revenue sharing which will help Detroit fund police, firefighters and other critical services; 2) increased funding for the Healthy Michigan Plan; 3) set aside funding for career and technical education; 4) expansion of the Healthy Kids Dental program; and 5) no cuts to funding for Graduate Medical Education as we had feared before. This vote was a tough choice for me, as this was not by any means a perfect budget, however, the significance of the many positives in this budget ultimately helped me to make this choice to vote yes on the omnibus budget.

We also voted on the school aid budget, which will provide estimated foundation allowance increases for all school districts. In District 6, Detroit Public Schools will see a \$138 per student increase, Ecorse Public Schools will see a \$127 per student increase, and River Rouge Public Schools will see a \$70 per student increase. This is great news for students in our district! There is also significant funding in the school budget for third grade reading efforts and a significant increase in "at-risk" funding.

June 11 Expungement/Parole Readiness Workshop

On **Thursday, June 11, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, 1211 Trumbull St. in**