

September 7, 2021

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Michigan House Education Committee

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairperson and Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

The undersigned organizations and individuals are writing to request that the House Education Committee hold a hearing on House Bills [4663](#), [4664](#), and [4665](#). These bills would ensure that all students have access to an effective school library staffed by a certified school librarian.

Currently, there is a literacy crisis in Michigan. Michigan [ranks 32nd](#) in 4th-grade reading achievement. It also [ranks 47th](#) in supporting its school libraries in spite of the fact that school libraries staffed by certified school librarians are [recommended](#) by the Michigan Department of Education. There are great inequities in access to effective school libraries across Michigan. The students who are most likely [to benefit](#) from a school library staffed by a certified school librarian are the least likely to have them. [Multiple studies](#) show that school libraries staffed by certified school librarians have a positive effect on literacy achievement and graduation rates. Today's school libraries are [dynamic learning centers](#) where literacy and the lifelong skills of information access, digital citizenship, and technology integration are taught.

Thus, it is crucial that the House Education Committee hold a hearing on bills 4663, 4664, and 4665. All of Michigan's students deserve access to the resources, lessons, experiences, and opportunities provided by a school library staffed by a certified library media specialist.

Sincerely,

Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME)

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Don't Leave Us Behind Campaign
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