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March 17, 2023

Mr. Larry Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909



Re: ADM File No. 2021-35

Dear Clerk Royster,

On behalf of the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency, I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202. I believe that these amendments would have a detrimental impact on public schools, students, and the communities they serve.

- Michigan public schools are already experiencing an extremely challenging teacher shortage. If the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202 are enacted, this will only get worse. Why would any prospective education professional enter a career that makes them so vulnerable to lawsuits? The increased threat of litigation is enough to scare away new teachers and force others into retirement, ultimately hurting students with increased class sizes and limited class availability.
- Additionally, The proposed amendments would also undermine public confidence in the school system. When people feel that their schools are being threatened by legal action, they are less likely to support them and more likely to question their value and effectiveness. This would harm the reputation of public schools and could lead to a decline in enrollment, further exacerbating their financial challenges.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed amendments and maintain the current court rules that require a stay of the case while an appeal is pending on a claim of governmental immunity.

Our schools need to keep funds in the classroom, not the courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William D. Brown".

William D. Brown, Superintendent

Education Service Center
310 Thomas Street
Allegan, MI 49010
P: 269.512.7700
F: 269.512.7701

Hillside Learning Center
212 Grove Street
Allegan, MI 49010
P: 269.512.7900
F: 269.512.7901

Tech Center
2891 116th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
P: 269.512.7800
F: 269.512.7801

Transition Center
219 S. Farmer Street
Otsego, MI 49078
P: 269.512.7980
F: 269.512.7781