

Name: Oxford and MSU local labor leaders Jim Gibbons, Melissa Musgrove, Martin McDonough & Kate Birdsall

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Comment:

To the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court:

As local labor leaders at Oxford and MSU, we are writing to oppose the proposed rule changes that change appeal procedures for governmental immunity findings in lower courts.

We do this not as legal experts, but as educators and public employees who, along with our students and their families, have suffered unimaginable trauma because of the shootings at our institutions.

In our society, the shock and despair of school shootings are nearly always followed by lawsuits from survivors asking for answers to the too-often unanswerable question, "Why?" While we mourn for the victims of our respective tragedies along with their families, it's an unavoidable truth that the lack of commonsense gun safety and mental health laws drive our unique national frequency of school shootings. Our fear is these changes will invite further litigation against institutions and individuals who are doing nothing more than attempting to educate students in a complex and too often dangerous world.

Education employees – from preschool through higher ed – feel the intense weight of school safety on top of the already high-pressure of meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of students. Mix in more than a decade of political attacks on the profession and it's no wonder why we have a shortage of qualified educators to fill roles at our schools, community colleges and universities. This rule change will make matters even worse by adding the weight of legal liability to the already heavy burden these dedicated educators and public servants bear.

Please reject these proposed rule changes.

Sincerely,

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Oxford Education Association

Melissa Musgrove
President
Oxford Educational Support Personnel Association

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President, Administrative Professionals Association
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