

Malika Abdul-Basir - Bill 569

From: Kimberly Leitz <kimberlyleitz@yahoo.com>
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Subject: Bill 569

Committee Chair Mr. Wayne A. Schmidt and Commerce Committee Members:

My name is Kimberly Leitz- McCauley, I am a Michigan resident, single mother, and Michigan film worker. I want to let you know that the Michigan film incentives have literally saved my from poverty and given me the ability to (financially) take care of myself and my son in an appropriate manner. In 2008 my life changed for the better- I was given the opportunity to work on a film, and have continued to do so to this date. Unfortunately, in February of this year, my career took a nose dive and I started losing jobs when the Governor reduced the film incentives. I was forced to collect unemployment for the forced six months of 2011, I worked on only half the number of productions I have worked on the previous three years, and I will now be forced to go on unemployment again, and maybe worse.

25 million dollars is not a competitive amount of money for film incentives, we need a minimum of 100 million to employ the 14,000+ workers, train MORE locals, and to stay competitive with other states. Hollywood is a business and like any other business they are looking for the best deal and consistency. Michigan already has a leg up on other states because of the many talented film workers that reside here and the infrastructure that has started to take root.

Because of the Michigan film incentives not only was I costume designing and set costuming for productions, I was able to start a small costume rental business - I rented a loft in Eastern Market (Detroit) to store my inventory, bought supplies, etc. from local businesses and was able to add to my income. This month I will be ending my lease agreement and donating my inventory because I can't afford to keep the business up and running, no movies = no business.

Please consider supporting the Michigan film industry, and keeping the cap at a competitive amount.

Thank you for your time.

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