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To: Honorable Members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee
From: Amanda Fisher, Assistant State Director
Date: June 8, 2021
RE: Support House Bills HB 4557-4561 – COVID License Fee Refund

The past 14 months have been hard on small businesses. Living under closures and restrictions has many small businesses struggling to survive. When businesses have been allowed to remain open, they have been subject to capacity restrictions and strict, sometimes costly, workplace regulations that have added to their burden. Meanwhile, the state of Michigan has continued to collect taxes and licensing fees as if it is business as usual.

HBs 4557-4561 are bills that would correct for the fundamental unfairness of charging licensing fees while not being allowed to operate by the very government collecting those fees.

While some might oppose these bills because of revenue loss to the state, that loss doesn't begin to compare with what was lost by those hardest hit by closures and restrictions. In addition, it seems that this is exactly the kind of revenue loss that can and should be covered by the federal pandemic recovery funds received by the state.

The legislature needs to do everything it can to provide economic and regulatory help to those businesses who have been most affected by previous and current restrictions, which is why we urge a yes vote on these bills.

Your support of HB 4557-4561 is supporting small business.