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February 21, 2024

Rep. Kelly Breen and members of the House Judiciary Committee
S-785 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48901

Re: HB 5328 (Wilson)

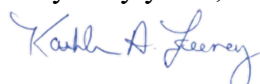
Dear Chairperson Breen and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Michigan Judges Association that represents circuit and Court of Appeals judges from across this great state, I respectfully request that you strongly support HB 5328. For years, MJA has been fighting for parity regarding retirement contributions, and HB 5328 would provide that parity. Right now, judges taking the bench after March 31, 1997 have no retirement health care. And no pension. None. The state pays 4% into our 401(k) plans with a 3% match to the judge's contribution of 3%. Other state employees have a 5% match and use this additional state contribution to save for health care after retirement. HB 5328 would provide our judges with an additional 2% increased match—putting us on the same footing as other state employees.

We need a qualified, committed bench. We need to attract skilled attorneys away from private practice and persuade them to leave lucrative positions to become skilled public servants. Placing them at least on the same level as other state employees may help attract and retain judges who are experts in their area of law and who represent the best and brightest legal minds in Michigan.

Our judges will appear to testify in support of HB 5328; those judges have been working tirelessly over the past several years to achieve this additional 2% match for retirement funds. I trust that they will be able to provide you with more details regarding the 401(k) match increase. Thank you for considering this increase of 2% towards our retirement contribution accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney, President
Michigan Judges Association