

To Whom It May Concern,

December 4, 2017

I am the mother of Aaron (2nd), Micah (1st), and Matthew (Kindergarten), students at Detroit Prep, as well as one of the closest neighbors of the currently abandoned Anna Joyce Elementary School in Pingree Park. **I am writing you to in support of Bill SB 702.**

This Bill, which would allow Detroit Prep to purchase and restore the abandoned Anna Joyce Elementary School, would not only be something that my family and I would personally celebrate, but I am confident that my neighbors in Pingree Park and the surrounding neighborhoods would also. Buildings that were built and supported by taxpayer's money should continue to serve and be a positive light to our neighborhoods and used for public purposes. I believe that SB 702 accomplishes this. I can't tell you what a sad reminder of devastation in our community as well as a danger this abandoned school is for our community.

SB 702 would allow abandoned buildings that are currently an eyesore to communities, drain on property values, and a magnet for crime, to be used for things that the surrounding neighborhood can be proud of and things that can attract more families to a neighborhood or city. If Bill SB 702 is passed, Detroit Prep will be able to purchase Anna Joyce Elementary, which will not only provide a permanent school home for Detroit Prep, one of the highest performing schools in the city, but will turn this current source of blight for my neighbors and me into a hub for the community, a school that many of neighbors, who once attended, can be proud of again. This is a worthy cause. This bill should be passed in order to allow the investment Detroit made at one time to be used for such an amazing purpose by allowing Detroit Prep to continue the development of Detroit's youth in a community minded way.

Please consider this letter and any more you receive from parents and community members as a serious petition, urging you to pass Bill SB 702. We want to make a difference in a community that is asking for Detroit Prep, a world-class school, to move in. We want abandoned school buildings to be able to be restored to their original purpose in their neighborhoods. We want sources of blight to be removed, and to turn our neighborhood into a warm and welcoming community. The life that could be brought to our streets by allowing this Bill to pass would bring hope and inspiration to a worthy community.

**Passing SB 702 is critical to my neighborhood and Detroit's revitalization.** When schools close, like the Anna Joyce Elementary school across the street from my home, neighborhoods are destabilized. If schools are allowed to open again within the buildings, neighborhoods can again begin to gain residents and return as vibrant spaces for all people. Feel free to reach out to me if I can answer any questions or give you any more details on why I feel that passing SB 702 is so important to our city.

Very Respectfully,

Martha Lacombe

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