

41B DISTRICT COURT

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Clinton Township
Harrison Township
Mount Clemens

CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE
Carrie Lynn Fuca

DISTRICT JUDGE
Linda Davis
Sebastian Lucido

MAGISTRATE
Daniel J. Goulette

COURT ADMINISTRATOR/MAGISTRATE
Kim Silvestro

DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR
Robin Morosini

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Phone: (586) 469-9300

February 21, 2017

Dear Judiciary Committee:

It is with deep regrets that I cannot attend today's hearing, but my docket was already set and it would have been a real burden on litigants to cancel on such short notice. The subject of this hearing bears directly on my career, and although being there today was of utmost importance to my future, I could not in good conscience cancel my court docket.

I am sixty-eight going on 50. I am healthy, of sound mind and body, and have an abundance of energy. My term will end in 4 years and I will age out under the present law and be forced to retire. The law does not care that I am a well-respected jurist that gives my heart and soul to my job. I have never been late a day. I am quick to make decisions, my docket is always caught up and I take exceptional pride in what I do. I am a drug court judge and have graduated hundreds of participants that have gone on to be productive citizens in our community. Our drug court has received state-wide attention, and because of our success received a \$675,000 federal grant. In addition, my position as judge has allowed me to accomplish amazing things in my community. I am founder of Families Against Narcotics - a county project that educates and brings the community together to fight the prescription drug problem. We recently launched an innovated program called HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS, in partnership with all Macomb police departments, to get addicts help before they commit crimes. In one week, we helped 43 addicts get into treatment. I am also President of Operation RX - a community based program that partners with numerous sectors in the community to bridge the gap between prevention, treatment and recovery. I speak at over 75 events a year, often times at a breakfast meeting, a luncheon and then again at an evening event. My age does not hinder me, it in fact gives me credibility, life experience and a prospective based on wisdom.

The law in question was passed decades ago, when 70 was considered old, but this no longer applies, most people live well into their 90's these days. Some of our best judges are in their late sixties and early 70's and I would put them up against any judge half their age. We have a work ethic not shared by many of our younger counter-parts.

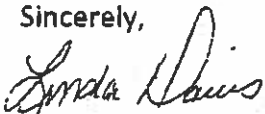
Does it not seem odd that you can run for President of the United States, sit on the Supreme Court, be a federal judge at the age of 70 and older and yet State judges are discriminated on based on age.

We have lost many good judges based on this arbitrary law. There is no sound reason for its existence. We do not make more money based on our length of employment, and do not receive benefits from the State. It is not a financial burden to the State of Michigan.

I take great pride in being a well-respected judge, and I know that when I am no longer able to perform my role as judge with the same standard I have today, I will voluntarily step down and hopefully let someone with my passion take my job. I want to leave my position with the same reputation and respect that I have today.

Thank you for your valuable time, and I hope wisdom will prevail and allow this to be voted through committee.

Sincerely,



Linda Davis
41B District Court