

# MICHIGAN WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT BILL PACKAGE

**House Bill 5105 (Plawecki): Michigan Human Right to Water Act -** Establishes that each individual in Michigan has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

**House Bill 5097 (Chang): Affordability -** Addresses the water rate structure that unduly burdens low income residents by amending the social welfare act to create a residential water affordability program within DHHS in order to ensure that water bills are based on household income.

**House Bill 5095/5096 (Chang/Garrett): Decriminalization -** Decriminalizes the act of re-connecting water service (because of a shut-off due to inability to pay) from a five year felony to a civil infraction for a first or second offense and a misdemeanor for the third offense. HB 5096 changes the statute; HB 5095 changes the sentencing guidelines.

**House Bill 5094 (Neeley): Pre-flushing -** This bill stipulates that the DEQ and all water authorities must be compliant with EPA guidelines and it mandates that procedurally no entity including DEQ will be permitted to use pre-flushing as a water sample collecting method.

**House Bill 5093 (Plawecki): Transparency -** Increases transparency by requiring water providers to submit an annual report to DHHS regarding water rates and how they were determined, along with information about shut-offs in the previous year.

**Draft 2020 (Chang): Shut-off protections -** Institutes shut-off protections by creating categories of individuals protected from shut-offs (seniors, families with young children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities) and providing for clearer notices about potential shutoffs.

**Draft 4220 (Neeley): Public notification -** This bill address Tier II violations only. It stipulates that for Tier II water violations, the DEQ and responsible water authority have 72 hours from firmly identifying a Tier II water episode. Within that 72 hour window, the public must be notified.

What you can do: Contact your state representative and express your support for these bills and attend the event in Lansing on December 10, Human Rights Day!

## BIPARTISAN ACTION

Although our state is the Great Lakes state and is surrounded by fresh water, Michigan residents continue to face a water crisis, and it is time to act.

On June 3, 2015, Representatives Sheldon Neeley, LaTanya Garrett, and Stephanie Chang convened a public hearing at the state capitol to hear testimony from Michiganders facing water shutoffs, contamination, and public health concerns.

A bipartisan group of Michigan lawmakers\* formed a workgroup to partner with stakeholders to develop legislation to address Michigan's water crisis. The workgroup has introduced the first set in package of bills because they believe that water is a human right.

We need to protect the residents of Detroit, Highland Park, Flint and all Michigan communities by making sure each resident has the right to safe, affordable and accessible water.

*\*Reps. Canfield (R), Chang (D), Garrett (D), Neeley (D), and Plawecki (D)*