

POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

27056 Joy Road • Redford, MI 48239-1949

January 25, 2010

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Voice Mail Extension

The Honorable Jason Allen
State Senator
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Allen:

Recently Senate Bill 1046, Senate Bill 1047, and SJR P have been introduced that would uniformly require up to 20% co-pay on medical insurance for all public employees. Additionally, a 5% across the board pay cut for all public employees has been proposed. These mandates as proposed by the Senate Republicans will be required without any justification or concerns on the effect to local units of government and local governmental employees.

The Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) believes that these local controls should be made by local units of government. Apparently, some members of the legislature are not aware that concessions of these types are currently being made at the bargaining table. Some concessions are even greater than those as proposed by the State. In every contract negotiated by POAM over the last several years, health care has changed. These changes have been made to adapt to the fluctuating expenses and needs of both the employer and the employees. While not every employee has a specific set of premium co-pays, many concessions are made in the level of medical care, the rate of pay or other benefits that had been or are being received by local governmental employees. The proposed state mandates in some cases go too far and other cases don't go far enough. The idea that the State should intervene in the negotiation process of local units of government is mis-directed because it provides absolutely zero cost savings to the State.

POAM and the local units of government we work with have recognized the economic downturn over the past decade and have been dealing with the conditions of this downturn at the

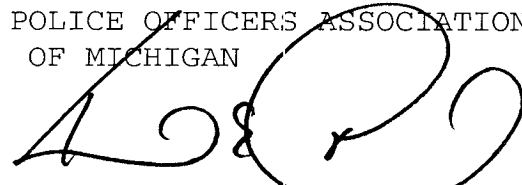
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bargaining table. This issue is not new to us or the police officers we represent. Wages have been frozen and/or reduced, changes are being made to pension systems, health care systems, levels of benefits have been reduced, overall the issues that the State wishes to address are being addressed by the local units of government and the POAM.

Unless the State wants to provide all wages and benefits that are received by all public employees, I strongly believe it is in the best interest of the State to focus on state costs and operations and stay out of the operations of local units of government. Allow the process that has been working to continue to work. These proposals are not in the best interest of the citizens of this state.

Sincerely,

POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF MICHIGAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. E. Grabowski', written over the printed name below.

Kenneth E. Grabowski
Legislative Director

KEG/jlh