

Senators Pavlov, Horn, Booher and Proos offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 146.

A resolution to urge Michigan communities to pursue innovative policies that promote economic development by attracting young STEAM professionals to work in financially distressed communities.

Whereas, Despite our storied economic reputation, many young professionals are leaving this state to pursue opportunities elsewhere. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan has seen a net reduction of 4.4 percent in young workers aged 22 to 34 in the past five years. Two of the most popular destinations are the neighboring states of Illinois and Ohio. Young men and women come to Michigan to become STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts, and math—professionals, but far too many leave after graduation; and

Whereas, Reversing the outgoing tide of young STEAM professionals is of the highest priority. The paucity of young professionals working in fields demanding a STEAM background stymies local economic development and job creation. There are economic disincentives for STEAM professionals wanting to remain in Michigan and rebuild their distressed communities that must be addressed in order to make this state more competitive for these highly sought-after graduates; and

Whereas, Communities can become more attractive to STEAM professionals when innovative economic development policies are pursued. Among these policy pursuits are reducing the income disparities for young STEAM professionals choosing to live in a community where earning potential is less than high-demand STEAM areas. Incentives like student loan assistance and employment relocation reimbursement expenses would aid in this endeavor to make Michigan more attractive to these 21st century workers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge Michigan communities to pursue innovative policies that promote economic development by attracting young STEAM professionals to work in financially-distressed communities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to distressed local communities as defined under 1998 PA 328.