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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

**TO OPPOSE MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 136, WHICH SEEKS TO
CREATE THE "RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND CONSCIENCE
PROTECTION ACT," AS SUCH AN ACT WOULD POTENTIALLY
LIMIT THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED TO MICHIGAN
CITIZENS BASED ON PERSONAL MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
OR MORAL OBJECTION, WHICH IS BOTH UNACCEPTABLE
AND IN CONFLICT WITH THE AGREED UPON GOALS OF THE
GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION AND ITS MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY AND
ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT POSITIVELY
AFFECT UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
CITIZENS**

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition was founded in 1996 to examine the health and health care issues in Genesee County, Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition is a nonprofit Michigan corporation whose mission is to improve the health status of the residents of Genesee County and to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the health care system in Genesee County;

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition's strategic business plan has a focus area of Access with a goal to "promote policies and practices that positively affect universal access to health care;"

WHEREAS, the Greater Flint Health Coalition supports programs, policies, and practices that increase or maintain access to health care services for Genesee County and Michigan residents;

WHEREAS, limited access to health care services is currently a major barrier to improving the health outcomes of Genesee County, Michigan, and United States citizens;

WHEREAS, health equity is defined by *Healthy People 2020* as "the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, achieved by valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing society efforts to


address avoidable health inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities;"

WHEREAS, racial disparities and health equity are included in the Greater Flint Health Coalition's strategic business plan as an overlay to all activities of the coalition, intended "to assist a broad base of community leaders and stakeholders in all areas of health and health care in understanding and addressing the multifaceted social, racial, environmental, and economic factors that impact the health of individual community members and to keep front and center the issues of ethnic & racial disparities and health equity in all work of the Coalition;"

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 136 would create the "Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection Act," in turn creating circumstances that will negatively impact the principles of health equity and universal access to care by allowing health care facilities, health care providers, health care insurers, or employers to limit the provision of health care services to residents based on their personal opinion, religious conscience, or moral objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greater Flint Health Coalition, composed of representatives and leadership from Genesee County hospitals, physicians, healthcare providers, health insurers, business, government, educators and schools, organized labor, the faith-based community, and community residents, oppose Michigan Senate Bill 136, and the creation of the "Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection Act," because it would create conditions that would limit the health care services provided to citizens based on personal matters of conscience or moral objection, while increasing health inequity.

THIS RESOLUTION has been adopted effective June 17, 2013.



Pete Levine, Secretary