

# CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ryan L. Wood  
**Clerk of the Board**  
Diane Zuker

## **RESOLUTION 2005-6** **SUPPORTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OPERATIONS** **HEARING AND VISION SCREENING**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has proposed a \$667,000 reduction to Local Public Health Operations funding for the 2004/05 budget year and a reduction of over 5 million dollars for the 2005-06 budget year and these reductions are targeting the elimination of hearing and vision screening programs conducted by local public health departments; and

**WHEREAS**, annually over 1.75 million children are provided screening and referral services, with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department serving approximately 1,300 preschool children and 7,500 school-age children annually for hearing and vision problems; and

**WHEREAS**, these services have documented cost saving benefits, specifically in the area of educational outcomes and health care costs. The minimum investment of \$3.00 per child is a fiscally strong investment by the State compared to the alternative of some children placed in special education programs at a cost of \$14,000 per year;

**WHEREAS**, these services address the health needs of at-risk populations, and hearing and vision screening provide essential preventive health services to a population not receiving routine health care;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan needs to focus support for preventive health programs administered by local public health departments as opposed to eliminating programs which save health care dollars: and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Code, PA 368, defines reimbursement to local health departments for basic health services to be funded at 50% by the State of Michigan, which presently is at approximately 36%. In addition, the Public Health Code notes hearing and vision services shall be provided by local health departments.

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clinton County Board of Commissioners requests assistance from Representative Richard Ball, Representative Scott Hummel and Senator Alan L. Cropsey in re-establishing funds for Local Public Health Operations services and specifically the Hearing and Vision Screening Program being targeted for elimination. A commitment to reimburse local health departments at the level defined in the Public Health Code is essential to address core public health services and prevent the spread of disease.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Representative Richard Ball, Representative Scott Hummel, Senator Alan L. Cropsey, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and the Michigan Association of Counties.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF CLINTON

I, DIANE ZUKER, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held April 26, 2005 and is on file in the records of this office.

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Diane Zuker, Clinton County Clerk