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## MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Speaker of the House Andy Dillon  
Majority Floor Leader Kathy Angerer  
Minority Leader Kevin Elsenheimer  
Minority Floor Leader Dave Hildenbrand

**FROM:** Representative Timothy Bledsoe  
Representative Bill Rogers

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 3, 2010

**SUBJECT:** July 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Amendment and Term Limits Reform Amendment

We write to formally request that the leadership of the House of Representatives move expeditiously to take up our respective constitutional amendments. Representative Rogers sponsors Joint Resolution HH, which establishes a deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup> for the Legislature to submit a balanced budget or lose its pay for each day thereafter. Representative Bledsoe sponsors Joint Resolution OO, which reforms legislative term limits so that members must leave the legislature after 14 years and may not return, but may spend those 14 years in either chamber.

We are joined in our Resolutions by more than two dozen freshman co-sponsors, both Democrats and Republican.

In her State of the State speech on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Jennifer Granholm offered strong testimonial regarding the need to reform our budget process, specifically endorsing our bipartisan freshman proposal for a July 1<sup>st</sup> budget deadline.

In a public address to the Michigan Political Leadership Program on February 25<sup>th</sup>, former governors James Blanchard and John Engler singled-out legislative term limits as a major barrier to achieving the leadership we need to move our state forward in these challenging times.

We challenge the leadership of our chamber to overcome the inertia resulting from partisanship and timidity and immediately begin moving these Resolutions through the House. These are modest but vital reforms that should be presented to the voters at the earliest opportunity, on the August ballot this year.

To succeed, our reforms must be divorced from partisan politics, but they must be divorced from rivalries for higher office as well. Having these efforts closely associated with one party or the other, or one statewide office candidate or another, would surely doom them to failure.

Therefore, we request that the leadership of the House of Representative allow the two of us to work with committee chairs and individual members to craft a process by which our proposals can receive the careful scrutiny they deserve.

We are happy to meet with leaders of both parties to discuss our plans for how this process might unfold in the coming weeks.

CC:           Members of the House of Representatives