

WATER, AIR AND SOIL QUALITY IN MICHIGAN'S PREK-16 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS:** Water contamination from aging infrastructure, lack of corrosion treatment, air pollution, and soil contamination from industrial sources near public schools jeopardize children and school staff health and academic success; and
- WHEREAS:** There is no safe level of lead exposure; and
- WHEREAS:** Schools located in areas with the State's highest water, soil or air contamination levels have the lowest attendance rates and the highest proportion of students who fail to meet State testing standards; and
- WHEREAS:** Schools in Michigan are disproportionately located in areas of industrial pollution; and
- WHEREAS:** 81.5% of African American students, 62% of Latino students, and 44% of white students are attending K-12 schools in the top 10% of industrially polluted areas; and
- WHEREAS:** An enriched school environment including pre-school with strong reading readiness programs and highly nutritious foods will offset the developmental damage caused by environmental hazards such as air pollution, soil contamination and water toxins; and
- WHEREAS:** Our PreK-16 Michigan public schools have faced ongoing budget cuts and reduction of staff that hinders the ability to care for students with special needs as a result of exposure to water toxins, soil contamination and air pollution; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That all Michigan PreK-16 public schools should be regularly notified and tested for air, water and soil quality and results made available to the public; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** If high water or soil contamination or air pollution levels are found, all students should be tested and provided appropriate immediate and long-term care; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED:** That the State of Michigan should invest money in soil remediation and the infrastructure to replace, as needed, pipes, water lines, water fountains, air vent and heating and cooling systems in our K-16 public schools.

Submitted by:

Human Rights Committee (May 2, 2016)

Revised and Approved by AFT Michigan 74th Convention (May 14, 2016)