

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.277

Rep. Berman offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution discouraging local units of government from
2 defunding or abolishing their local police departments.

3 Whereas, Recent incidents of injuries to and deaths of
4 civilians in encounters with law enforcement officers have
5 justifiably drawn attention to the organization and funding of
6 police departments. Some advocates for change are going beyond
7 calls for reforms, however, by demanding that local police
8 departments be defunded or abolished; and

9 Whereas, Law enforcement is a necessary and vital function of
10 our government at all levels. Police departments enforce the laws
11 enacted by the Legislature to ensure public safety, protect the
12 health and possessions of our citizens, and to prevent crime and
13 civil disorder; and

14 Whereas, Michigan law enforcement officers are highly-trained



1 and courageous individuals working in dangerous situations to
2 protect the residents of Michigan; and

3 Whereas, The egregious misconduct and bias of some law
4 enforcement officers demonstrates the need for reform, but efforts
5 to defund or abolish local police departments gives credence to the
6 incorrect notion that law enforcement generally is harmful to local
7 communities, rather than a cornerstone of a safe and prosperous
8 society; and

9 Whereas, Defunding or abolishing local police departments will
10 burden remaining departments that may be called upon to provide
11 assistance within municipalities that no longer have the resources
12 to respond to emergency calls. Lack of policing resources will put
13 citizens at risk, creating chaos and disorder; and

14 Whereas, The absence of law enforcement personnel in our
15 cities and rural areas could affect the state's economy,
16 discouraging businesses from locating here and out-of-state
17 residents from visiting. An increase in crime would affect every
18 Michigan resident's quality of life; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we discourage
20 local units of government from defunding or abolishing their local
21 police departments; and be it further

22 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
23 Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Municipal League, the
24 Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of
25 Mayors, and the Michigan Association of Township Supervisors.

