

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.172

Senator LaSata offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to oppose the use of taxpayer resources by
2 Michigan's public universities and/or community colleges to engage
3 in partisan political activities or to influence the outcome of
4 elections.

5 Whereas, Michigan's fifteen public universities and twenty-
6 eight community colleges are public institutions entrusted with
7 more than \$2.5 billion dollars of taxpayer funds annually. It is
8 inappropriate for these government entities to utilize public funds
9 to engage in partisan political activism; and

10 Whereas, Respect for differing opinions and thoughtful
11 consideration of divergent political viewpoints are cornerstones of
12 Michigan's public universities and community colleges. Trust in
13 institutions of higher education is threatened by the perception

1 that they are engaging in partisan politics; and

2 Whereas, Members of the Michigan State University Board of
3 Trustees Committee on Academic Affairs offered a resolution
4 intended to pressure university vendors to cease their support of
5 certain elected officials, candidates, and political parties. Such
6 a resolution is a blatant attempt to utilize state resources to
7 affect the outcome of an election; and

8 Whereas, The Committee on Academic Affair's resolution,
9 regardless of whether it is passed or not, sends a message to
10 vendors that their personal political contributions are being
11 monitored. Furthermore, a resolution of this nature could encourage
12 other institutions of higher education to use public funds to
13 engage in partisan politics; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the Senate, That we oppose the use of taxpayer
15 resources by Michigan's public universities and/or community
16 colleges to engage in partisan political activities or to influence
17 the outcome of elections; and be it further

18 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
19 governing boards of Michigan's state funded public universities and
20 community colleges.