GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

May 9, 2019

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Ladies and gentlemen:

Today I have signed Enrolled House Bill 4286, which amends section 6 of the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act. I support the additional reporting requirements mandated by this legislation.

However, pursuant to section 19 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, I have disapproved subsection (10) of the bill, which would have appropriated $10 million to the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. While I support the appropriation of money for this purpose, I don't support its inclusion in House Bill 4286.

As I have previously indicated, including in Executive Directive 2019-7, I will use my veto power to disapprove appropriations included in bills amending the Michigan Compiled Laws to preserve the People's reserved constitutional right to approve or disapprove enacted laws, regardless of the subject matter of the legislation.

While this item veto underscores my strong support for referendum rights, it should not be construed as a lack of support for compensation for citizens wrongfully imprisoned. I would support an appropriation of money to the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Fund included in a supplemental appropriations bill or a general appropriations bill.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

Attachment

c: Secretary of State