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To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Cc: [Sylvia Orduño](#); [Barry Rubin](#); [Randy Block](#); [Roslyn Walker](#); [Alice Jennings](#); [Mart Ellen Howard](#); [Cyndi Roper](#); [LaSharon Laster](#); [Valerie Jean Blakely](#); [Mustapha Elturk](#); [Edwin Rowe](#); [Kim Redigan](#)
Subject: Comment to Urge Support for SB 549-554 and HB 5088-5093 at GLWA Board Meeting October 24, 2023
Date: Monday, October 23, 2023 10:39:57 PM
Attachments: [Water Justice for All – Proph Int MAT 2021-4.pages](#)

To GLWA:

As a person of Faith, I believe that Water is a Human Right, because it is necessary for life, a commons gift from our Creator to all living creatures.. Therefore, Safe and Affordable should be made available to all living persons in our State. My Faith Community has affirmed this in several Michigan Conference United Church of Christ Resolutions (see attached).

As a retired physician I can attest to the vital importance of an adequate, safe, water supply to avoid water-related infectious diseases such as Legionnaire's Disease, Shigellosis, Campylobacter and even Typhoid Fever and Cholera, which are usually only seen in under-developed countries or during war or natural disasters. These risks are especially great for young children and older persons and people with chronic medical disorders or disabilities. Lack of adequate water can lead to severe dehydration and even heat stroke, especially during summer heat waves which are becoming increasingly common due to Global Warming.

As a retired High-Risk Obstetrician, I am especially concerned about increased risks during pregnancy and for newborns. Mothers sick from "water-related" infectious diseases and/or dehydration can lead to preterm labor and delivery and a potential worsening of our already high Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Rates, which are especially high for People of Color.

Individuals who cannot properly flush their toilets or wash themselves, their clothes or dishes are more likely to spread these infectious diseases to others in public places such such as schools or at work in hotels or restaurants. This includes Hepatitis A which has been endemic in southeast Michigan.

For all of these ethical and Public Health reasons, I urge you to endorse these packets of bills, SB 549-554 and HB 5088-5093, that have been introduced in our State Legislature, to assure Safe and Affordable Water throughout Michigan!

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