



March 3, 2022

Dear Michigan Legislators,

Michigan is at a critical moment in our state's economy and our future. With our businesses struggling to find the workers they need in manufacturing, health care, agriculture and many services, state leaders need to support the policies that meet their needs.

We already know that engineering, software development, medical and other jobs requiring a college education are growing faster than jobs on the production line, a trend that's going to accelerate in the future. While Michigan is rightly working hard to stay on the cutting edge in the transportation, technology, medical and mobility industries, we need to face the reality that tax cuts and corporate incentives alone can't make Michigan nationally and globally competitive or provide the workers our businesses need.

Enclosed are a series of op-eds that appeared recently in Crain's Detroit Business on how Michigan can successfully transform its workforce into one suited to excel in the economy of the future. We join the authors in emphasizing their most important point: **Creating and retaining the engineers, software designers, health care workers, IT developers, bioscience professionals and others our businesses need to stay competitive must be our state's top priority.**

With a historic level of resources and revenues available, state lawmakers have an opportunity to make the kinds of investments in our next generation of workers and entrepreneurs that will truly strengthen our state economy. Strong investments in our state's postsecondary institutions and in the hundreds of thousands of students they serve is critical to increasing college access and affordability and boosting the production of graduates with the degrees and credentials that will help businesses meet their workforce needs.

Investing in Michigan's universities is an investment in our people, a way of giving everyone a leg up and making life better in our communities. More health care graduates mean more doctors and nurses can provide excellent, available health care statewide. More researchers looking for ways to strengthen Michigan's agriculture industry means more prosperity in our rural communities. More software developers and IT specialists who can fill the thousands of high-tech jobs automakers and suppliers have open benefits major employers and the communities where these workers will live.

Many of the high-paying jobs of the future require at least four years of college education, and sometimes many more. If we don't start investing now, Michigan won't have the doctors,



nurses, software developers, engineers, and agricultural experts our businesses and economy needs to succeed.

Developing and retaining a workforce that can fill the high-paying jobs that are going unfilled is the most important strategy state leaders can embrace to ensure future prosperity for Michigan. We hope the enclosed op-eds provide insight and incentive for state lawmakers to make bold investments in our state's future.

Sincerely –

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kofi Bonner".

Kofi Bonner  
Chief Executive Officer, Bedrock

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Paltzer".

Adam Paltzer  
Vice President of Operations, Able Medical Devices

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Stevens, Jr.".

Glenn Stevens, Jr.  
Executive Director, MICHauto and Vice President, Automotive & Mobility Initiatives

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Rapundalo".

Stephen Rapundalo, PhD  
President and CEO, MichBio