



## House Democratic Leader Christine Greig on Republican's Political Theater

- Following a Twitter announcement by House Speaker Chatfield, the State Legislature convened in Lansing today to create a joint select committee to examine government actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- House Concurrent Resolution 20, to create the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic was drafted without input from Democratic members of the House.
- Governor Whitmer has exercised powers delegated to her by the Legislature to respond to COVID-19, any legitimate investigation of governmental action taken in response to this pandemic must start with a review of the Trump Administration's abject failure to prepare and effectively respond to this global public health crisis.

LANSING, Mich., April 24, 2020, — The State House convened today for the sole purpose of voting on a Concurrent Resolution that would create a committee to review governmental actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is an honor to serve in the State Legislature, and my colleagues and I take our roles extremely seriously," said House Democratic Leader **Christine Greig** (D-Farmington Hills). "However, we all have family members, friends, loved ones, and constituents back in our communities that we must do our best to protect during this pandemic. Traveling within the state right now is a risk, and we must do our part to mitigate the risks we are taking to keep each other safe and healthy. It is not being called back to session that I oppose today. I oppose the hollow, partisan resolution that we were called back to vote on."

Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency on March 10 once cases of COVID-19 were officially diagnosed in Michigan. Declaring a state of emergency legally expanded the governor's authority to execute actions to mitigate a deadly public health crisis. Many of her Executive Orders filled in gaps due to the lack of response from the Federal government and the Trump administration.

"Experts knew this pandemic would eventually reach our nation and Michigan, and the Federal government has not provided a roadmap to ensure the health and safety of our citizens. From the very beginning, Governor Whitmer has used every tool in her toolbox, legally and righteously, to keep Michiganders safe and healthy. The Federal government left it up to state governors to act in the best interests of their state, and that is exactly what happened," Greig continued.

In addition to acting on HCR 0020, House Democrats will move to take up two House Bills — HB 4903 and 5628 — to expand paid sick leave and improve unemployment benefits and HR 245, which would take the House off the sidelines during this crisis by authorizing remote participation in committee and session. Republican legislators are expected to oppose taking action on these needed measures.

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