

# 2023 Legislative Accomplishments: Just Getting Started!

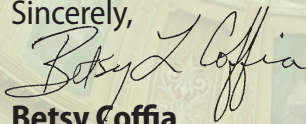
Dear Neighbor,

As the 2023 legislative session winds down, I wanted to take a moment to recap some of the highlights I've been able to accomplish for you and our communities in Michigan's 103rd House District during the first half of the term.

My top priority remains to improve the lives of the people I represent. We've already had some major successes, but of course there is always more work to be done. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and continue fighting for you at the state Capitol during the 102nd Michigan Legislature.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have questions or concerns about state government. My office phone number is **(517) 373-3817**, or you can email me at **BetsyCoffia@house.mi.gov**.

Sincerely,



**Betsy Coffia**

State Representative

Sign up to receive my email updates at:

**RepCoffia.com**



**137**   
BILLS SPONSORED  
& CO-SPONSORED

 **1**  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**63**   
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**33**   
RESOLUTIONS SPONSORED  
& CO-SPONSORED

 **24**  
COFFEE HOURS

**2400+**   
SCHEDULING INQUIRIES  
ADDRESSED

**3**   
BILLS PASSED IN  
THE HOUSE

**3**  
TOWN HALLS

**4200+**   
CONSTITUENTS HELPED

\*As of 10/1/23



State Representative **Betsy Coffia**

P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature.



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# LEGISLATIVE BUDGET WINS

## Investing In Our Communities

Through the passage of the fiscal year 2023-24 state budget, I am thrilled to be bringing home funding to support a number of crucial projects in Michigan's 103rd House District.


*These include:*

 **\$15 million** for the Freshwater Research & Innovation Center in Elmwood Township to bring hundreds of good-paying jobs and support our region's higher education, environment and economic goals.

 **\$2.2 million** for a new emergency communications tower in Benzie County.

 **\$2 million** for lead water line replacement in Traverse City.

 **\$1.8 million** for a new fire truck and ladder in Traverse City for public safety use across the region.

 **\$800,000** for the Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission to support local child care initiatives, including tuition assistance for families in Leelanau, Benzie, and Grand Traverse counties and startup costs for childcare providers.

 **\$300,000** for Housing North's Housing Ready Program to support regional affordable housing initiatives.

 **\$200,500** to replace two obsolete restrooms along Traverse City's bayfront.



# STATE REP. BETSY COFFIA

## ANNOUNCES FURTHER LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET WINS



### Helping Survivors of Abuse

I'm proud to say that the House has already passed *two bipartisan bills* that I sponsored related to ending cycles of abuse in Michigan.

The first, House Bill 4296, is part of a package of bills to eliminate child marriage in Michigan. The vast majority of these marriages involve an adult man and underage girl, and they can be used to cover up abuse and human trafficking operations. Gov. Whitmer has signed several of the child marriage ban bills into law.

The second bill, House Bill 4516, allows federally recognized tribes in Michigan to be eligible to receive state funding to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence. These tribal programs not only provide life-saving services to *all survivors*, but also provide unique, culturally specific services that Native survivors cannot find elsewhere.

## Supporting Rural Schools

This year's state budget for the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1 includes major investments in statewide priorities such as roads and infrastructure, public health and safety, environmental protection, economic development, workforce support, and more.

For me, one item stands out beyond the rest.

I was able to secure funding to create a new School Transportation Fund in the state's education budget. Districts like ours in Northern Michigan spend an outsized portion of their budgets on transportation, meaning fewer resources for the classroom, mental health support, etc. We put \$125 million into this new fund to help offset those costs, putting rural districts on more even footing with more urban, densely populated districts to set our students up for success.

I'm proud to have successfully championed this new transportation equity fund during my first six months in office! It takes the first meaningful step to address a decades-long problem that has denied generations of school children needed resources for their education. I was proud to champion more equity in funding for our schools because I believe every child no matter their zip code deserves us to invest in their ability to learn and succeed.



## Free Breakfast and Lunch for Every Public School Student

We know kids can't learn when they're hungry. That's why I'm so thrilled K-12 students in Michigan's public schools now receive nutritious school breakfast and lunch at no charge under the Michigan School Meals program. This will save families approximately \$850 per child annually and save busy parents hours of meal prep each week.

As a former TCAPS classroom employee and volunteer who spent many years working with our elementary-aged children, I've seen firsthand the impact of hunger on both learning and behaviors in school. I was proud to vote for this year's state School Aid budget to include this breakfast and lunch provision, which will invest in our students by allowing them to stay focused on learning and not a rumbling stomach. Next, we will work to ensure that the program's success extends beyond this school year so that we can continue supporting students' basic needs and their overall success for years to come.

More information can be found at the Michigan School Meals website, and questions regarding the program may be directed to [mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov).

**STATE REP. BETSY COFFIA**  
(517) 373-3817 • [REPCOFFIA.COM](http://REPCOFFIA.COM)