



A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE “MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE” TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BASED ON RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS The Ypsilanti community has a long history of promoting racial, ethnic, and gender equality in education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services; and

WHEREAS The City of Ypsilanti implemented and currently administers an Affirmative Action Plan to promote these important community values; and

WHEREAS Other governments in the Ypsilanti community – including Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw County, and the Ypsilanti Public Schools – also strive to ensure diversity in education, employment, housing, contracts, and access to public services; and

WHEREAS Affirmative action has proven its value as an effective tool in diminishing barriers for women and men of various ethnic and cultural groups who have been denied equality in, and access to, education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services; and

WHEREAS Affirmative action has proven to help businesses, educational institutions, and governments become more diverse, and therefore more competitive in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS Michigan voters will be asked in November 2006 to approve or reject the “Michigan Civil Rights Initiative” (MCRI) which, if approved, would amend Article I of the Michigan Constitution to ban affirmative action and other programs designed to ensure equality in, and access to, education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services; and

WHEREAS The MCRI could have a devastating effect on programs in the Ypsilanti community that have expanded economic and educational opportunities for women and men of all racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS The MCRI’s name and goals could mislead Michigan voters about the issue of discrimination by State entities; and

WHEREAS The MCRI could conflict with federal legislation, programs, and Court Orders that reflect our nation’s commitment to equality in, and access to, education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services; and

WHEREAS Similar initiatives to end affirmative action adopted in other States have reduced access by women and men of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services; and

WHEREAS Out-of-state special interest groups are funding MCRI's campaign against civil rights; and

WHEREAS The Michigan Civil Rights Commission – which was created by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 to enforce guarantees against discrimination outlined in the State Constitution – approved a resolution opposing the MCRI; and

WHEREAS The MCRI's attempts to end affirmative action are inconsistent with the principle of equal treatment under the law as set forth in the United States and Michigan Constitutions' now therefore:

IT IS RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council affirms its strong commitment to the principles of equal treatment and opportunity;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council strongly opposes the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiative because of its potentially devastating effect on equality in, and access to, education, employment, housing, contracts, and public services in the City of Ypsilanti;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti City Council urges the residents of Ypsilanti vote against the MCRI in November 2006.

Date: March 21, 2006

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE: