

**Iron County Board of Commissioners**  
**RESOLUTION**

Supporting Michigan Indigent Defense Act and  
It's Existing Local Cost Share

**WHEREAS**, The Iron County Board of Commissioners supports the Michigan Indigent Defense Act and its efforts to insist upon fair and equal justice for low income and indigent defendants; and recognizes the need for indigent defense options within the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, Iron County believes that individuals should not be denied equal access to justice based on financial ability and the State of Michigan (State) has failed to provide competent representation to indigent defendants, thus failing to meet state and federal constitutional obligation of a right to an attorney to all individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also recognized that while equal access to justice is a fundamental constitutional right, the expenses related to providing these vital services must not be fairly shifted to county and local government; and

**WHEREAS**, through enactment of PA93 of 2013, the Michigan Indigent Defense Act, the local systems responsibility for the cost are equal to the system's average annual expenditure in the three fiscal years immediately preceding the creation of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission ( MIDC), less the money Received from partially indigent reimbursements with the remaining costs to meet the MIDC created standards being paid by the State; and

**WHEREAS**, submitted plans for compliance by the counties were significantly higher in cost than the State expected; the State is now trying to back out of its statutory obligation; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Snyder's Fiscal 2019 budget includes provisions for indigent defense that would increase the budget on the counties and does not uphold the State's responsibilities in funding provisions; so

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Iron is opposed to the Governor's proposed adjustments to the Indigent Defense Program and Local Cost Sharing within his fiscal year 2019 budget plan, and urges lawmakers to properly fund state standards from state resources, as per PA 93 of 2013.

Commissioner BRENNAN offered the resolution that was supported by \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner COATES and the resolution was adopted by the following vote:

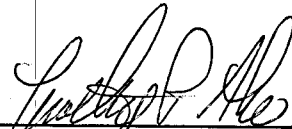
Yeas: AHO, BRENNAN, COATES, LEONOFF, PERETTO

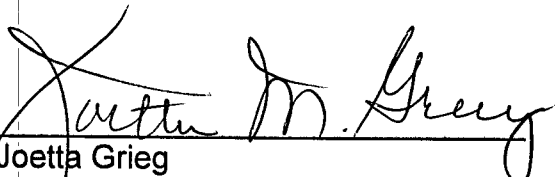
Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of the County of Iron on April 10, 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF IRON**

By   
Timothy P. Aho  
It's Chair

By   
Joetta Grieg  
It's Clerk