

Mr. Larry Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2021-35

Dear Clerk Royster,

On behalf of [School District], I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202. I believe that these amendments would have a detrimental impact on public schools, students, and the communities they serve.

[Point #1]

Additionally, [Point #2]

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed amendments and maintain the current court rules that require a stay of the case while an appeal is pending on a claim of governmental immunity.

Our schools need to keep funds in the classroom, not the courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Talking points – Please add two of the following points to your letter.

- Public schools are essential institutions that provide a vital service to our communities. They play a critical role in preparing students for their futures and building a strong, educated workforce. The proposed amendments to MCR 7.202 would cause the [School District] to divert additional resources and attention away from educating students and towards defending against legal action.
- The proposed amendments would cause our valuable school teachers, counselors, bus drivers, principals and others to sit in court for weeks, losing valuable with the students they serve. We know that the continuity of adults in our students lives impacts their learning and in this situation it would have a significant negative impact.
- Public schools are already under significant financial strain and prolonged, frivolous litigation would only increase their financial burden. This could lead to reduced funding for important programs and services, such as those focused on student health and wellbeing, and could potentially result in the closure of schools.
- Michigan public schools are already experiencing an extremely challenging teacher shortage. If the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202 are enacted, this will only get worse. Why would any

prospective education professional enter a career that makes them so vulnerable to lawsuits? The increased threat of litigation is enough to scare away new teachers and force others into retirement, ultimately hurting students with increased class sizes and limited class availability.

- This rule change will in no way bring worthy and justifiable claims to justice. It will only allow for more litigation. The sheer volume of frivolous allegations will overshadow those claims that are rightful and deserving of a complete judicial process. Justice will not be served if the amendments to MCR 7.202 are put in place.
- The proposed amendments would also undermine public confidence in the school system. When people feel that their schools are being threatened by legal action, they are less likely to support them and more likely to question their value and effectiveness. This would harm the reputation of public schools and could lead to a decline in enrollment, further exacerbating their financial challenges.