



## Student Association of Michigan

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## **Students of Michigan Oppose House Bill 4980** *SAM Unanimously Passes Resolution Opposing Bill*

LANSING, MI – At the September conference of the Student Association of Michigan student leaders were informed about a recently introduced bill in the Michigan Legislature. House bill 4980, introduced by Representative Bob Genetski (R, Saugatuck), closes the loop-holes in the tuition restraint language included in the recent higher education funding budget approved earlier this year. It also includes a negative supplemental for Michigan State University and Wayne State University, two of the schools alleged to have violated the tuition restraint language. This will be a cut of over 31 million dollars between the two.

“From the legislature’s perspective, they are trying to penalize a few administrators for violating the spirit of the law; from the administrators point of view, they followed the letter of the law,” Said Student Association of Michigan President Jay Gage. “However, yet again students are stuck holding the bill.”

Gage, who had a chance to speak with Representative Genetski concerning HB 4980, says he remains optimistic that an equitable solution can be found for all parties involved, but concessions must be made on all sides. “Through our discussion, it is my opinion that Rep. Genetski is willing to work with both universities, and I am sure the administrations would welcome that dialogue so long as an equitable solution is found” stated Gage.

SAM is committed to facilitating discussions on both sides so that a decision can be made that satisfies all parties, including the students of Michigan. Gage stated, “SAM is committed to helping shape the solution, what we aren’t committed to is standing idly by while these cuts happen.”

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*Our Mission: “To advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the public institutions of higher education in the state of Michigan.”*