

November 5, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today, I am returning Enrolled House Bill 4066 without my approval. This legislation would have prohibited local governments from enacting or enforcing any knife law stricter than state law.

Crime is local. In my view, citizens of Michigan's cities and towns – not Lansing politicians – should be able to make their own public safety decisions. HB 4066 would deprive them of that power. I am therefore vetoing this legislation.

As a former prosecutor, public safety is a top priority for me. I want Michiganders to feel safe, whether going to and from work, dropping their kids off at school, or running errands. That is why I have put forward a \$75 million plan called MI Safe Communities, informed by hundreds of conversations my team and I had with law enforcement officers, community leaders, faith leaders, and families over several months.

MI Safe Communities would use federal funds that we already have to invest more money into Michigan's police departments to strengthen training policies and programs, tackle the backlog of criminal cases that have piled up during the pandemic, and make investments to tackle the root causes of crime by expanding opportunity and bolstering violence intervention programs.

We all want to reduce crime and ensure families feel safe. I know we can work together to protect public safety, and I look forward making the investments we need to support law enforcement, decrease violence, and deliver justice.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor