

State Representative Cynthia Neely
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
cynthianeeley@house.mi.gov

Committee Chair Neely,

Your mission statement from your website is perfect for this request:

“Correcting the mistakes of our past is how we improve the lives of Michiganders for the future.”

Up until 2020, the State of Michigan offered an option for some people to Defer Special Assessments until their property exchanged hands. **After 44 years, the State canceled this program.**

In Michigan Counties, Drain Special Assessments can be more than \$40,000 or higher, continue to be placed on homes and farms. Drain, dam repair, sewer and road assessments while needed to fund projects, provide assessments that may be crippling to some low / fixed income seniors and disabled.

Many dams with ongoing repairs, such as the Four Lakes: Secord, Smallwood, Wixom & Sanford, are looking at an average of \$33,000 per lake home. Michigan Dam Safety has identified high-hazard dams across Michigan in need of renovation to meet safety standards.

New Sewers are a blessing for communities, but the Special Assessment can be too expensive for some homeowners.

Two Bills have been introduced: House Bill 5419 Schuette and House Bill 5420 Hoadley. These bills will help Michigan residents with homesteads that meet the criteria stay in their homes by passing through the legislative process and for signature by Governor Whitmer.

This legislation is targeted toward lower-income, fixed-income seniors 65+ and / or disabled dealing with a Special Assessment for Drains, Dams, Roads, Sewers, and more that may put them at risk of losing their homestead home.

Homeowners may find that the home they are living in may have equity, but that money is tied up in an asset, not spendable cash. Many seniors purchased their homesteads decades ago. Inflation, escalating interest rates and rising property taxes coupled with these assessments can devastate residents just getting by or living on a fixed income.

I seek your support to move this legislation through your committee. This will be a useful resurgence of a successful Michigan program for those that may need this option to remain in their homestead.

YOUR MISSION COUPLED WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE’S FUTURE.

Sincerely,

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP