proposal that would have allowed the use of tuition vouchers for nonpublic schools. Since I was elected governor, I have consistently put students and parents first and we have begun to reverse decades of disinvestment in public education. I am vetoing Enrolled House Bills 5404 and 5405 because they would undo much of that good work.

Nevertheless, I would be proud to support common sense bills that help all families access high-quality education and child care, including legislation:

- fixing the third-grade reading law to eliminate punitive retention requirements;
- giving child care providers more flexibility so that they can serve more children; and,
- preventing disruption in student learning by allowing students to move seamlessly between in-person instruction and virtual school.

I am willing to work with anyone who shares these goals to get things done for Michigan students and parents.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

The question being on the passage of the bill, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding, Rep. Calley moved that the bill be re-referred to the Committee on Education.

The motion prevailed.

The following veto message from the Governor was received and read:

Executive Office, Lansing, November 5, 2021

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

Representatives,

I am deeply committed to putting Michigan students and parents first and am proud of what we have achieved for Michigan children. Together, we have improved opportunities and outcomes for more than 1.4 million kids across Michigan by:

- expanding the Great Start Readiness Program to serve more than 17,000 additional four year-olds;
- making more than 105,000 more Michigan children eligible for low- or no-cost child care; and,
- making the largest educational investment in our state’s history three years in a row – tripling the number of literacy coaches, hiring more counselors, providing MI Classroom Heroes grants to 138,000 teachers, and finally closing the nearly three decades-long funding gap.

And we did it all without raising taxes one dime.

Proponents say House Bills 5404 and 5405 promote philanthropy, but any Michigander can already donate money to an educational nonprofit and receive a write-off on their taxes. This legislation would require Michigan taxpayers to foot the bill for any money a person gives to certain private education organizations, costing as much as $500 million in 2022 alone. Simply put, our schools cannot provide the high-quality education our kids deserve if we turn private schools into tax shelters for the wealthy.

The movement to privatize education in this state has been a catastrophic failure, causing Michigan students to fall behind the rest of the nation. As a result of this movement, Michigan now has by far the largest proportion of for-profit charters in the country yet was one of only five states where reading attainment actually declined between 2003 and 2018. Redirecting public school dollars for private gain is not only ineffective, it has been roundly rejected by Michigan voters, with more than 69% voting “no” on a proposal that would have allowed the use of tuition vouchers for nonpublic schools. Since I was elected governor, I have consistently put students and parents first and we have begun to reverse decades of disinvestment in public education. I am vetoing Enrolled House Bills 5404 and 5405 because they would undo much of that good work.

Nevertheless, I would be proud to support common sense bills that help all families access high-quality education and child care, including legislation:

- fixing the third-grade reading law to eliminate punitive retention requirements;
- giving child care providers more flexibility so that they can serve more children; and,
- preventing disruption in student learning by allowing students to move seamlessly between in-person instruction and virtual school.

I am willing to work with anyone who shares these goals to get things done for Michigan students and parents.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

The question being on the passage of the bill, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding, Rep. Calley moved that the bill be re-referred to the Committee on Education.

The motion prevailed.
The following veto message from the Governor was received and read:

Executive Office, Lansing, 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

The question being on the passage of the bill, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding, Rep. Calley moved that the bill be re-referred to the Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance. The motion prevailed.

Rep. Calley moved that House Committees be given leave to meet during the balance of today’s session. The motion prevailed.

By unanimous consent the House returned to the order of

Announcement by the Clerk of Printing and Enrollment

The Clerk announced that the following bills had been reproduced and made available electronically on Thursday, November 4:

House Bill Nos. 5527 5528 5529 5530 5531 5532 5533 5534 5535 5536

The Clerk announced the enrollment printing and presentation to the Governor on Friday, November 5, for her approval of the following bills:

Enrolled House Bill No. 4059 at 1:33 p.m.
Enrolled House Bill No. 4117 at 1:35 p.m.
Enrolled House Bill No. 4281 at 1:37 p.m.
Enrolled House Bill No. 4501 at 1:39 p.m.

Reports of Standing Committees

The Committee on Judiciary, by Rep. Filler, Chair, reported

House Bill No. 4084, entitled
A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled “Natural resources and environmental protection act,” by amending section 8905a (MCL 324.8905a), as amended by 2014 PA 549.

With the recommendation that the substitute (H-3) be adopted and that the bill then pass.
The bill and substitute were referred to the order of Second Reading of Bills.