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Foundation for Michigan Freedom Launches Prevailing Wage Ad, Website Urging Lawmakers to Put Students, Taxpayers First

Repeal Could Save Michigan Schools, Universities \$224 Million Annually

LANSING, MI, May 12, 2015 –The Foundation for Michigan Freedom today began airing a new online advertisement urging lawmakers to repeal the state’s costly prevailing wage regulation, empowering public schools and universities to save \$224 million annually.

The new ad, titled “Savings for Kids,” can be viewed online at www.RepealPrevailingWage.com, which was also launched today.

Michigan’s prevailing wage regulation cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year, forcing our schools and communities to pay dramatically higher rates for construction projects.

“Prevailing wage regulations artificially take hundreds millions of dollars from public school kids and taxpayers every single year,” said Foundation spokesman Tony Daunt. “Lawmakers in the state House and Senate should make repealing these regulations a priority, so education dollars go where they were intended—into the classroom.”

According to a 2013 study conducted by the nonpartisan Anderson Economic Group, Michigan’s prevailing wage regulation cost schools alone an additional \$224 million more annually on construction contracts.

The savings that would be generated by putting an end to the prevailing wage regulation are enough to hire 3,600 new public school teachers, purchase nearly \$150 in school supplies every fall for each of the state’s 1.5 million public school students, or equip every student in the state with a state-of-the-art tablet or e-reader in only a few years’ time.

Prevailing wage regulations also kill jobs and harm non-union builders and contractors—more than 80% of the qualified workforce—by forcing taxpayers to discriminate against them and cut them out of public sector construction projects.

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