

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 216

Reps. Anthony, Glenn, Afendoulis, Paquette and Hood offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge Major League Baseball to continue its  
2 support for minor-league baseball teams.

3 Whereas, Major League Baseball is currently considering  
4 eliminating its affiliation with 29 minor-league baseball teams and  
5 completely eliminating 13 other minor-league teams. The league has  
6 argued that the reduction in teams will allow them to raise the  
7 salaries of remaining minor-league players; and

8 Whereas, Eliminating minor-league baseball teams is  
9 unnecessary to meet the goal of raising salaries for minor-league  
10 players. Major League Baseball generated a record \$10.7 billion in  
11 revenue during the 2019 season; and

12 Whereas, Minor-league baseball teams are major economic



1 drivers in their communities, providing jobs and tax revenue while  
 2 benefiting local business by drawing people into commercial areas.  
 3 The elimination of these teams would have a pronounced negative  
 4 effect on local businesses and residents whose jobs depend on  
 5 gameday activities; and

6       Whereas, Minor-league baseball teams are a source of community  
 7 pride and promote local investment and economic development. Some  
 8 teams have been a part of their communities for decades. These  
 9 communities have invested in their teams, including in stadium  
 10 infrastructure projects that will be wasted if local teams lose  
 11 support; and

12       Whereas, Minor-league baseball teams provide community  
 13 benefits beyond economic impact. Minor-league games are affordable  
 14 family fun that create untold memories while attending games and  
 15 foster a connection to the national pastime. The elimination of  
 16 minor-league baseball teams could take these experiences away from  
 17 families for which Major League Baseball games are either too  
 18 expensive or too far away; and

19       Whereas, Major League Baseball's proposed plan would set a bad  
 20 precedent for eliminating additional minor-league baseball teams in  
 21 the future. Michigan has three minor-league baseball teams: the  
 22 West Michigan White Caps, Lansing Lugnuts, and Great Lakes Loons.  
 23 While none of these teams would be affected by Major League  
 24 Baseball's plan, the proposed changes would open the door to  
 25 further cuts in the future; now, therefore, be it

26       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge Major  
 27 League Baseball to continue its support for minor league baseball  
 28 teams; and be it further

29       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the



- 1 Commissioner of Major League Baseball and the President of Minor
- 2 League Baseball.

