



MAYIM HEM CHAYIM WATER IS LIFE

HELP SUPPORT HOUSE BILLS 4393 and 4389/90!

THE PROBLEM

In 2016, water shut-offs totaled 27,000 households in Detroit, with additional shut-offs in neighboring cities. With some bills totaling hundreds and even thousands of dollars, families in poverty are unable to pay the cost and risk having their water shut off. In 2014, the UN visited Detroit and declared water shut-offs based on inability to pay a violation of human rights.

THE IMPACTS

Public Health: In 2017, researchers from Henry Ford Health System found a significant link between water shutoffs and **water-borne bacterial infections** in Detroit, with higher likelihoods of illness among the most socially vulnerable. Water-related illness could devastate Detroit communities and spread to the wider region.

For Families: Because of **stigma and fear**, families and schoolchildren suffer in silence. Parents live in fear of the possibility of **Child Protective Services intervention** after 72 hours without water. Residents can face a **five-year felony charge** for reconnecting water service out of desperation.

THE COSTS

Water shutoffs are **expensive for cities and communities**. Hiring a private company to disconnect water has cost Detroit more than \$12 Million. The criminalization of families who reconnect water service funnels addition money to the criminal justice system - and E.R. visits for water-borne illnesses place a greater economic burden on the health care system.



SHUT - OFF PROTECTIONS

- Protects low-income seniors, children, pregnant women and differently-abled citizens from shut-offs when they demonstrate an inability to pay.
- Requires clear and timely notification of shut-offs.
- Creates a public water assistance fund for low-income households.

DECriminalIZATION

Reduces criminal penalty for reconnecting water service when shut off due to an inability to pay.

THE IMPACT

These bills can contribute to a healthier Michigan where:

- ✓ Public resources don't fund expensive shut-offs.
- ✓ Communities are better protected from water-borne illness.
- ✓ Families stay together and out of the criminal justice system.

ACT NOW

with DJJ & our partners
at People's Water Board
to pass this legislation



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TAKE ACTION!

The Local Government Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives is considering a hearing on these bills. **Contact your Michigan House representative to ask for their support and co-sponsorship** of HB 4393 and 4389/4390.

In particular: Are you a constituent of a Local Government committee member below or do you know someone who is? Visit www.detroitjewsforjustice.org/water to let us know and help us to raise our collective voice for a hearing.

- Chair: State Rep. James Lower, 70th District (R) - Montcalm County and Gratiot County
- Julie Alexander, 64th District (R) - Jackson County
- Roger Hauck, 99th District (R) - Isabella County and Midland County.
- Ben Frederick, 85th District (R) - Shiawassee County and Saginaw County.
- Gary Howell, 82th District (R) - Lapeer County
- Jim Runestad, 44th District (R) - Highland, White Lake, Springfield, Milford, Waterford
- Kathy Crawford, 38th District (R) - Lyon, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake
- Sara Cambensy, 109th District (D) - Alger, Luce, Schoolcraft, Marquette (Upper Peninsula)
- Jim Ellison, 26th District (D) - Royal Oak and Madison Heights
- Patrick Green, 28th District (D) - Center Line and city of Warren
- Jeremy Moss, 35th District (D) - Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin.

INFORMATION

- Visit www.detroitjewsforjustice.org/water to tell us if your or someone you know is a constituent in the Local Government Committee or has a connection to a committee member. You can also find instructions on contacting your representatives and more info on how you can help us support HBs 4393 and 4389/90.
- Share the link widely on social media and to your email network so we can find more connections to the Local Government Committee!