



# MICHIGAN SENATE

## Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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Date Submitted: 03/27/2026

**1. Sponsoring legislator's full name:**

Senator Mark Huizenga

**2. Cosponsoring legislators' names (if applicable):**

N/A

**3. Intended legislatively directed spending item recipient:**

Special Olympics Michigan

**4. Physical address of legislatively directed spending item recipient and the intended location of the project or activity:**

160 68th Street SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548

**5. The recipient's employer identification number:**

381964643

**6. Requested amount of the legislatively directed spending item:**

\$1,000,000.00

**7. What is the purpose and how does the legislatively directed spending item provide a public benefit that is an appropriate use of taxpayer money?**

Special Olympics Michigan Unified Champion Schools is an education-based strategy that creates school environments that are more inclusive and accepting for all students. Unified Champion Schools brings students with and without intellectual disabilities together in three core areas: Unified Sports - where they play on teams together fostering friendship and understanding that carries over into the classroom, hallways and their homes. Inclusive Youth Leadership - where students help with planning and educating others in their schools on the power of acceptance for all students. Whole School Engagement - where the school utilizes campaigns such as assemblies, respect week or Spread The Word where they celebrate what it means to be unified in their school, district and community. 96% of educators say that Unified Champion Schools makes a positive impact on their school. Special Olympics

Michigan has 700 schools in 56 counties that are Unified Champion Schools with the goal of increasing 800 by 9.30.2027.

- 8. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received or been awarded any of the following types of funding in the past 5 years? If so, how much? Check all that apply:**

Federal, State

**Amount**

\$1,000,000.00

- 9. Estimated time frame for completion of the legislatively directed spending item project:**

FY 2027

- 10. Is the recipient a nonprofit corporation?**

Yes

*Additional Information for Nonprofit Corporations (if applicable)*

*The answer to questions 1 to 3 must be "Yes" for the nonprofit corporation to qualify for a legislatively directed spending item.*

- 1. Has the nonprofit corporation continuously operated in this state for the preceding 36 months?**

Yes

- 2. Has the nonprofit corporation had a physical office in this state for not less than the preceding 12 consecutive months?**

Yes

- 3. Does the organization have a board of directors?**

Yes

- 4. List all of the officers and active members on the board of directors:**

a. Erik Daly (Chair) b. Michael Wendt (Vice Chair) c. Amanda Davis d. Max Hinga  
e. Ahmed Al-Zoubi f. Michelle Dunaway g. Brian Calley h. Maureen D'Agostino i.  
Steve Jbarra j. Mira Jourdan k. Al Melfi l. Julie Conn m. Sal Samola n. Juliet

Dragos o. Michelle Acciavatti p. Mike Betts q. Anthony King r. David Knezek s.  
Krista Kark t. Dr. Rashid Faisal u. Doug Labadie

*Certification By Sponsoring Legislator*

*"I certify that my immediate family members, legislative staff members, and I have no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the requested legislatively directed spending item."*

*"I certify that the intended recipient of this legislatively directed spending item is not a for-profit entity."*

*"I certify that the information in this form is true to the best of my knowledge."*

*Senator Mark Huizenga*