# Sample Letter

Mr. Larry Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2021-35

Dear Clerk Royster,

On behalf of [School District], I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202. I believe that these amendments would have a detrimental impact on public schools, students, and the communities they serve.

[Point #1]

Additionally, [Point #2]

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed amendments and maintain the current court rules that require a stay of the case while an appeal is pending on a claim of governmental immunity.

Our schools need to keep funds in the classroom, not the courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

## Talking points – Please add two of the following points to your letter.

* Public schools are essential institutions that provide a vital service to our communities. They play a critical role in preparing students for their futures and building a strong, educated workforce. The proposed amendments to MCR 7.202 and 7.209 would cause the [School District] to divert important resources and attention away from educating students and towards defending against legal action.
* The proposed amendments would force our valuable schoolteachers, counselors, bus drivers, principals and others to sit in court for weeks, losing important time with the students they serve. We know the importance of adult continuity for our students’ learning and growth. This situation would result in direct injury to that consistency and therefore our students.
* Public schools are already under significant financial strain. Prolonged, frivolous litigation would only increase their financial burdens, resulting in reduced funding for important programs and services, such as those focused on student health and wellbeing. In extreme circumstances, it could result in the closure of schools.
* Michigan’s teacher shortage is already a near-crisis. If the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202 are enacted, this will only get worse. Why would any prospective education professional enter a career that makes them so vulnerable to lawsuits? The increased threat of litigation is enough to scare away new teachers and force others into retirement, ultimately hurting students with increased class sizes and limited class availability.
* This rule change will in no way bring worthy and justifiable claims to justice. It will only allow for more litigation. The sheer volume of frivolous allegations will overshadow those claims that are rightful and deserving of a complete judicial process. Justice will not be served if the amendments to MCR 7.202 are put in place.
* The proposed amendments would also undermine public confidence in the school system. When schools are threatened by legal action, community members are less likely to support them and more likely to question their value and effectiveness. Increased legal exposure and public trials, regardless of a case’s merits, will harm the reputation of public schools and threaten their solvency and viability to serve students.