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The following can be attributed to Daniel Hurley, CEO, Michigan Association of State Universities, regarding Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's FY 2023 executive budget recommendation:

"Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's FY2023 budget proposal is an important step in the right direction for supporting Michigan's students and its economy, which needs more college graduates to fill openings and attract well-paying employers to our state.

We welcome the much-needed increases in support for university operating funds, which will help minimize tuition increases and represents a major step toward improving the affordability of attending Michigan's public universities. Michigan's public university leaders are particularly pleased to see for the first time since 2000 a specific investment for campus improvements and facility maintenance that will assist with much needed upgrades to buildings, water systems, specialized technology, electrical and data networks, and more.

We are thankful for the Governor's proposed historic reinvestment and are hopeful that state lawmakers will be supportive as they commence with budget negotiations. It is critical that policymakers recognize the Governor's recommendation is helping repair damage done to college affordability in our state since 2000. Adjusted for inflation, Michigan's support for public universities has been cut by \$1 billion since 2002, and per student support is down 43 percent."

The Michigan Association of State Universities serves as the coordinating board for Michigan's 15 public universities, providing advocacy and fostering policy to maximize the collective value these institutions provide in serving the public interest and the State of Michigan.