**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAY YES TO SENIORS COALITION GOAL**

**TO ENACT A SENIOR SERVICE MILLAGE IN WASHTENAW COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County’s senior population age 60 and older is the fastest growing segment of our population and is growing at an annual rate of approximately 2,500 individuals, and this rate of growth will continue through 2030; and

WHEREAS, SEMCOG estimates that in 2020 there are 78,130 seniors (age 60+) which is the largest and fastest growing age segment in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 there will be more than 100 Washtenaw county residents age 100 and older, and that number will double in seven years; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County’s nonprofit aging services sector cannot keep pace with the growing demand for services, and has hundreds of older Washtenaw county residents on wait lists for essential services such as meals on wheels, home care, family caregiver respite and home chores; and

WHEREAS, a comparison of senior service levels with other counties, including Kent County, found that the counties with senior service millages deliver almost twice as many service units per 1,000 seniors than Washtenaw County’s Aging Services Sector and that the Kent County Senior Millage supports eleven unique services that are not provided by the Washtenaw County Aging Sector; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is just one of 12 (out of 83 total) counties in Michigan without a countywide Senior Millage to support senior services and just one of 4 without a Commission or Agency on Aging to coordinate senior services; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 study by MLive of the 2017 county millage rates in Michigan showed that Washtenaw was among the lowest county rates, placing 72nd out of 83 counties in total millage rates. And even when including the recent Mental Health millage, the county is lower than 67% of other counties in total millage rates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) supports creating a more age-friendly Washtenaw County and adoption of a senior service millage of not more than a half mil, and urges the County Board of Commissioners to allow residents to determine if Washtenaw County should join the other 71 Michigan counties that have approved a senior millage by placing a senior millage proposal on a ballot for a vote in 2020.

SIGNED