



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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STATE UPDATE

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Activity was light in Lansing this week as the Legislature broke on Wednesday so members could attend the annual Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce Mackinac Island Policy Conference. Notable actions this week include:

- The House finally passed a workplace smoking ban bill. The bill contained exemptions for casinos and cigar bars. Last session the Senate passed a “clean” smoking ban bill with no exemptions and Senate Majority Leader Bishop has indicated that is all he will support, so the compromise that is needed for Michigan to finally have a workplace smoking ban remains elusive.
- The Senate passed a revised version of the Cobo Hall expansion and renovation package that was rejected by the Detroit City Council last year. The legislation included language directing money to an alternative site in Oakland County, the Rock Financial Showplace, if the deal was rejected again by the Detroit City Council. For this reason, the legislation passed on a party line vote with all of the Senate Democrats joining their Detroit colleagues in opposition.

While the official focus of the Legislature this week was on these two policy issues that have been dogging them for months, the real focus remains squarely on the impending budget crisis. The uncertainty surrounding the fate of General Motors is leading to a wide disparity of opinions on how the Legislature should attempt to address the fiscal year 2010 shortfall. The May 15th revenue estimating conference projections were based upon short, clean bankruptcy proceedings for both General Motors and Chrysler. If either bankruptcy is protracted or if the ripple effect amongst suppliers is greater than anticipated, the projections could fall well short of actual revenues. I anticipate the Senate Republicans to use this reasoning as a basis for presenting a



powered by the
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comprehensive fiscal year 2010 budget plan that is balanced with deep cuts and major structural reforms.

It is more imperative than ever for us to build upon the success of Star Power and continue to advocate for the retention of funding for early childhood infrastructure and programming. I urge you to contact your legislators and let them know that now is not the time to give up on our future generations.