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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 9, 2017

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## **Governor Snyder Signs Legislation that Will Connect Michigan Students With Stronger Career Guidance Opportunities**

(Lansing, MI) – Governor Rick Snyder has signed legislation that will ensure that every student in Michigan is connected with counselors skilled in career guidance and postsecondary learning opportunities. House Bill 4181 requires more professional development exposure to the skilled trades for counselors. In turn, this will help ensure that more students learn about the great career paths that exist in construction.

“HB 4181 is a big step towards helping all students identify which career pathway is best suited for them, whether it is a two-year or four-year college degree or a skilled training program that leads to any number of high paying career jobs that are in great demand in Michigan,” said Dawn Crandall, executive director of the Skilled to Build Foundation of Michigan. “Building a stronger connection between the homebuilders and education will better allow us to spotlight and strengthen career pathways for individuals who want to enter the industry.”

The homebuilding industry continues to recover from the last recession, when the state lost an estimated 43% of its workforce in residential construction. An estimated 60,000 workers left the industry. Today homebuilders are hampered by a chronic shortage of skilled workers which delays construction of homes and remodeling projects and raises costs to consumers.

Passage of HB 4181 was one of 13 recommendations called for in a comprehensive report released this summer by the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM). The HBAM action plan focuses on three main areas that were identified at a series of regional summits as major factors in hampering the housing industry in Michigan; attracting housing investment, reducing regulatory delays and attracting people to fill a severe shortage of skilled workers.

“We are encouraged that we are being heard and there is recognition that the concerns we have raised are important not only to the homebuilding industry but the entire state of Michigan,” said Robert Filka, HBAM CEO. “Our thanks to Governor Snyder and the legislature for their swift action in making HB 4181 a reality.”

*The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 24 local homebuilder associations around the state and their builder, subcontractor and supplier members. HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing affordability.*

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