



# *PROCLAMATION*

- Whereas,* Debbie Stabenow has devoted her life to public service for the betterment of Michigan and her citizens; and
- Whereas,* While still a student at Michigan State University, Debbie was elected at the age of 24 to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, becoming the third woman to serve on the commission; and
- Whereas,* Debbie's journey from the county to state government began in 1978 when she was elected to the House of Representatives, rising in party leadership to eventually become the first woman to preside over the House; and
- Whereas,* Debbie's tenure in the Michigan Senate, where she was elected in 1990, was marked by significant legislative achievements including her key role in what led to the historic "Proposal A" school finance and property tax reforms in 1994; and
- Whereas,* Debbie advanced to the Congress in 1996, representing Michigan's 8<sup>th</sup> District in the U.S. House of Representatives, with much of her time focused on the work of the Agriculture and Science Committees; and
- Whereas,* Debbie recently retired from the U.S. Senate after serving five terms, marked by her leadership on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and her participation on committees on the budget, energy and natural resources, and finance; and
- Whereas,* Debbie was always a strong voice for Michigan, counting among her accomplishments the betterment of agricultural, manufacturing, and clean energy sectors, safeguarding the Great Lakes and Michigan's waters, promoting healthcare availability, women's health and reproductive rights, protections for children and families, and securing funding to meet the needs of Michigan communities;

***NOW, THEREFORE,*** Citizens Research Council celebrates Debbie's accomplishments and honors her with the "Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr. Public Service Award" on this Wednesday, September 17, 2025.