## **Friends of Donnie Bettes**

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## **Urgent Care Doctor, Former Teacher Seeks Dem Nomination for State House**

An urgent care doctor and former teacher is seeking to represent Livingston County residents in the Michigan House.

Donnie Bettes says she wants to bring her compassion for others to dealing with issues affecting the residents of the 42<sup>nd</sup> House District.

"I started out my career as a teacher, then became a family physician, and finally an urgent care doctor. Responding to the needs of others and seeking solutions based on proven data, has always been at the core of my professional life, and that's how I would act as your representative in Lansing," Bettes said.

Bettes said she would focus her legislative efforts on three issues:

--Fighting for quality and affordable education for Michigan children, from preschool through post-secondary level;

--Protecting health care for all Michigan residents, including fighting the high cost of prescription drugs, and

--Protecting Michigan's environment and addressing climate change.

"Without a quality education, our young people cannot compete in the global market," she said, adding that reports state that Michigan lags nearly all other states in the growth of school funding and that is holding our children behind. Her career as a math and science teacher, in the 1970s and 1980s, means she will always listen to the views of professionals in the classroom, Bettes added.

"Health care is on everyone's minds these days, and as an urgent care physician, I want to see health care available to everyone who needs it. With the loss of so many auto and manufacturing jobs in Michigan, many young people, especially those with children, are having to work two jobs just to make ends meet. Lack of affordable health care. and /or unexpected medical bills can have devastating financial repercussions, and hold them back from living the American Dream."

Bettes has lived in Livingston County for 32 years. "One of the reasons I live in Genoa township and Michigan is our state's natural beauty; its lakes, forests, and coastline. We need to do more to protect our Great Lakes & other natural resources," she said.

She filed her papers for the Democratic nomination for the 42<sup>nd</sup> House seat on Monday. Bettes began her professional life as a science and math teacher, teaching in the Fitzgerald and Warren Consolidated school districts. She switched careers mid-life, went to medical school, and became a family physician in 1990. Since 2009, she has been an urgent care physician, and has a small business related to the provision of urgent care. She was chair of St. Joseph Hospital's Family Medicine Department from 1994-1995.

She is a graduate of Oakland University, and Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency in family medicine at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

Bettes has been and is active in the Crandal's Crooked Lakes Homeowners Association; Sierra Club; LACASA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Michigan Association of Family hysicians. She also is a former member of the Michigan Education Association. She has two grown sons. The 42<sup>nd</sup> House District covers the townships of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, and Putnam, plus the city of Brighton.

People wishing for more information may contact Bettes at donniefor42house@gmail.com.



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