

REPLACE DON'T ERASE

April 18, 2012

Dan Gilmartin

Michigan Municipal League executive director and CEO:

Closing Statements:

Dan's concluding comments as event emcee:

One additional comment to build off of what (speaker Mitch Bean) said is a lot of Legislators have sort of been hiding behind the fact that we've had difficult economic times over the last 10 years and that's really the answer for why all these cuts are being made. We could argue that point going back 10 years but quite frankly that's has nothing to do what we're here for today. This is something that the Legislature is proactively doing potentially to eliminate over a billion dollars in funding that currently funds the people standing up here behind me today and many of those throughout the audience as well. So we can't just blame this on sort of a belt-tightening issue. The people behind me and the people in this room and individuals like them all over the state have been leading the way on belt-tightening. It hasn't been the state and the recent programs they put together. You heard the numbers up here today, whether that be libraries, police, fire, counties, whatever the case might be. We're very proud of the cuts we've made, we're very proud of how we've restructured local government, we still have a long way to go and we will get there. But that's not what we're here about today. We're here about an issue that's going to create an enormous problem of which we may not be able to come back from.

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