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## **Ministerial Alliance Urges Michigan Senate to Pass HB 6456 “As-Is”**

**CHICAGO, IL - The following statement can be attributed to Reverend James L Demus III, co-director of the Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide (MAADD):**

“For the sake of Michigan consumers, it is imperative that the legislature stay the course and promptly pass House Bill 6456 in its current form. This legislation is the product of nearly a year of healthy negotiation, debate and compromise and promises real benefits to Michigan video consumers in the form of lower rates, better service and more choices.”

“Unfortunately, in the waning days of the Lame Duck Session, Internet content providers have injected themselves into the debate by demanding a ‘net-neutrality’ amendment to be added to the legislation. ‘Net-neutrality’ is an entirely separate and complex issue in its own right and is completely unrelated to the current debate over cable franchise reform in Michigan. Adding net neutrality provisions to HB 6456 could effectively result in the cable competition law being nullified by the courts. States do not have the power to regulate the Internet because they are pre-empted by the federal government.”

“Considering that HB 6456 could save Michigan consumers nearly \$2 million a day on their cable bills, the people in this state cannot afford to delay this effort any longer. We respectfully urge the Michigan Senate to support House Bill 6456 in its current form to ensure Michigan consumers finally enjoy the benefits of competition.”

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*The Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide (MAADD) is a 15,000+ member civil rights organization led by ministers that is devoted to bridging the digital divide between those who have ready access to technology and those who do not.*