

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Commerce Communications Group

Jamaine Dickens

313-640-1801

jdickens@theccgroup.net



## **Alma Wheeler Smith and Washtenaw County Officials Endorse Bernero**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.** – Today, former Democratic candidate for Governor Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith and several Washtenaw County officials announced their endorsement of Virg Bernero for Governor.

After ending her bid for the Democratic nomination for Governor in May, Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith joined fellow Washtenaw County officials – including the Mayors of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti – to declare Virg Bernero the true Democratic choice to lead Michigan. At a press conference today, they threw their full support behind Virg for Governor and asked Michigan voters to do the same.

In endorsing Mayor Bernero, Smith stated:

“I am pleased to endorse Virg Bernero to be Michigan's next Governor and I'm committed to making that happen. Virg Bernero is the only candidate of either party who will defend a woman's right to choose. He is also the only Democratic candidate we can be certain will uphold the citizen-adopted stem cell research opportunities that hold such promise for health care and jobs. I am confident that people who supported me for governor will find Virg is the candidate best able to lead the dramatic turnaround that Michigan wants and, more importantly, needs. I encourage all of my supporters and undecided Democrats to support Virg Bernero because his agenda, priorities and commitment to true Democratic values will lead Michigan to a prosperous future.”

The official endorsements announced today include:

**State Legislators**

- Rep. Alma Wheeler-Smith (D), 54<sup>th</sup> District

**Mayors**

- John Hieftje, Mayor of Ann Arbor
- Paul Schreiber, Mayor of Ypsilanti

**Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners**

- Ronnie Peterson (D), District 6
- Conan Smith (D), District 10
- Jeff Irwin (D), District 11

-MORE-

**Ann Arbor City Council Members**

- Sabra Briere (D), Ward 1
- Sandi Smith (D), Ward 1
- Margie Teall (D), Ward 4
- Mike Anglin (D), Ward 5

**Ypsilanti City Council Members**

- Peter Murdock, Ward 3
- Brian Robb, Ward 3

“As mayor of Lansing, Virg Bernero has first-hand knowledge of the impossible challenges our cities face thanks to the continued unfunded mandates handed down from the State Capitol,” said Paul Schreiber, mayor, City of Ypsilanti. “Virg will fight for our cities and working families. He’s the fighter and leader Michigan needs. I strongly support Mayor Virg Bernero for governor of Michigan.”

Bernero’s campaign to Make Michigan Work Again has resonated with the residents of Washtenaw County. As the only Mayor in Michigan’s gubernatorial race, Bernero will make Michigan’s communities and working families on Main Street his number one priority. Bernero has also risen as the true Democratic choice for Governor, receiving the vast majority of union support and being the only candidate of either party who fully supports a woman’s right to choose and who has consistently stood for women’s rights.

“Virg’s commitment to hard working men and women is clear. As a Mayor, Virg Bernero has a keen understanding of the importance of investing in our cities and he knows that in order for Michigan to thrive, our cities must thrive. His commitment and passion for core progressive Democratic values make Virg the right leader for Michigan and I’m proud to give him my endorsement as our state’s next Governor.” Mayor Hieftje said.

“I’m honored to have Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith’s support,” said Bernero. “Alma has been a committed public servant and champion of progressive values for more than two decades. We share a dedication to serving the people of Michigan and will continue working together to bringing a strong and prosperous future to Michigan.”

Bernero’s campaign to Make Michigan Work Again is resonating with statewide voters and organizations with the campaign gaining endorsements from across the state, including Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, Michigan NOW, the Michigan Education Association (MEA), the American Federation of Teachers Michigan (AFT Michigan), the Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) and the Michigan AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO represents more than 600,000 active and retired members in 59 unions throughout Michigan, including the United Auto Workers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

###