

# BUILDING BRIDGES/CIVICS ACTIVITIES- LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:

## DAY 5, PART 1- It begins with Prayer:

Let's pray for our LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – at the Federal, State, and local levels

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Phil. 4:6)*

- **Salvation of those who have not yet put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** - Legislators like all people, need the forgiveness of sins and the new life that comes through putting one's faith in Jesus Christ. "God our Savior... wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3b-4). Praying for the salvation of legislators should be a top priority in a Christian's life (Acts 4:10-12; Romans 10:9).
- **Divine Wisdom** - Legislators are regularly called upon to make very difficult decisions that affect many people. Divine wisdom is available for those who ask God for it (James 1:5). Good decisions will seldom be made without God's wisdom (Psalm 111:10).
- **Discernment** - Sometimes there is a fine line between a right or a wrong decision. Legislators are called upon to vote on an issue that may or may not be good for the people they represent. It is in these times they need Godly discernment (1 Kings 3:9).
- **Courage** - Political expediency often trumps a legislator's conscience. It is only with courage that a leader will trust that God is the protector and defender of all right decisions (2 Samuel 10:12).
- **Perseverance** - When legislators act courageously and make right decisions they must be able to persevere through the pressure, tests and trials that will surely come their way. Even when their careers may be at stake, they must persevere and do the right thing (James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:7).
- **Humility** - Legislators have great power, deal with immense sums of money, and are often treated like royalty. This can quickly go to their heads and lead to arrogance and pride. Pray that God will keep them on their knees and heed His instruction; so that being led by Him they may rightly lead those they represent (1 Peter 5:5; Isaiah 66:2).
- **Moral Integrity** - Legislators regularly encounter strong temptations that include greed, deceitfulness, sexual immorality, and alcohol and drug abuse. They are often away from their families for many days at a time with little to no accountability. Pray for them to have the strength to resist these temptations that can destroy their lives, families, as well as their effectiveness as leaders (Psalm 25:21; Isaiah 33:15-16).
- **Self-control** - Legislators face daily temptations that can cause them to lose control of their attitudes and actions. They cannot control their circumstances but they can control their response to those circumstances. Prayer to maintain self-control is paramount for their success (Proverbs 25:28; 2 Timothy 1:7). [The Message paraphrase interestingly translates Proverbs 16:32b, self-control is better than political power.]

## DAY 5, PART 2- Taking Action:

1. **Watch this video** to learn more about the Legislative Branch:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hltv8-nzcUc>
2. **Check out the ministry of "Capitol Commission."** Sign up here to receive their daily email, helping you pray through all of Michigan's legislators: <http://www.pray1tim2.org/states/mi/subscriptions/daily>
3. **Download the Citizen's Guide to State Government** and make sure you know who your legislators are and how to contact them: <http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf> (Also the Student's Guide to the Legislature: <http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/StudentGuide.pdf>) Familiarize yourself with the material and keep it on hand for further study and reference! [Remember you can also utilize this tool from **My Faith Votes** to identify all those representing you: <https://www.myfaithvotes.org/contact-my-representatives>]
4. **Write letters and send them to 'Build Bridges' with your legislators.** Refer to these pages to guide your letter writing: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cOHMExnNiGpz-bVhv7R5eER7fctw9BVQ> Introduce yourself as a homeschooling family, let them know you're praying for them, and simply offer gratitude and encouragement for the difficult job they do.

Feel free to refer them to the following resources on Home Education for further information:

Michigan Christian Homeschool Network - <https://michn.org/>

National Home Education Research Institute - <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>

National organization: Home School Legal Defense Association - <https://hsllda.org/about>

Homeschool Freedom website - <https://homeschoolfreedom.com/>