

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Growing Forward Together (University of Michigan Employee, Julia Seng, co-founder and CEO).

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology seeks approval to transact with Growing Forward Together to coordinate Regional learning opportunities for perinatal stakeholders.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Julia Seng is employed by the University as Professor with the School of Nursing and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and would be a party to the contract as co-founder and CEO of Growing Forward Together.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
 - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
 - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

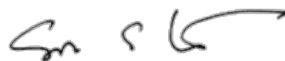
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Growing Forward Together.
- ii) The contract is to implement trauma-informed care screening & planning, along with supporting doulas with continuing education opportunities for six months and the total cost will not exceed \$2,400 for 1-16 participants or \$3,200 for 17-32 participants. Growing Forward Together will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Julia Seng, is co-founder and CEO of Growing Forward Together.

Julia Seng has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Julia Seng under the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and Growing Forward Together, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Julia Seng or the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

June 2025