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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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OVERSIGHT

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Chair Jay DeBoyer
Chair of the Committee on Oversight
Capitol Building
Room H-372
Lansing, MI 48933

Chair DeBoyer,

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge the House Oversight Committee to launch an immediate investigation into the relationship between Jeffrey Epstein and the Interlochen Center for the Arts, located in Interlochen, Michigan. As I am sure you are aware, disturbing details surrounding Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's connections to Interlochen have recently come to light. These details include allegations that Epstein and Maxwell used the elite arts school to prey on girls who were attending Interlochen in their early teens.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts is a world-renowned institution that attracts talented children from all over the world. Alumni from the Interlochen Center for the Arts constitute a community of over 100,000 artists and arts advocates, leaders and learners, innovators and creative change-makers, hailing from 110 countries and national territories. Interlochen graduates have won a combined 162 Grammy Awards, 29 Emmy Awards, and 13% of the musicians in the nation's major orchestras are Interlochen Alumni. It is, thus, one of the world's premier art schools and summer camps.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts reported \$313,081,859 in assets in their 2023 tax filing. As a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, they are exempt from state and federal taxes. Interlochen has also received state funds or grants on numerous occasions, amounting to at least half a million dollars.

Based on documents released by the U.S. Department of Justice and recent media reports, Jeffrey Epstein met one of his first known victims at Interlochen in 1994. That woman testified at Ghislaine Maxwell's 2021 criminal trial that she was 13 years old when she met Epstein and Maxwell at the school's annual summer Interlochen Arts Camp in 1994. Per court and U.S. DOJ documents, she says it was at Interlochen where a relationship that started with grooming and led to sexual abuse, first began.

According to a recent NPR article, documents contained in the DOJ's release of the Epstein Files show that Epstein became a significant donor to Interlochen in the 1990's, donating over \$400,000 to the non-profit over a 13-year period. This money included the donation of a cabin on the campus that was referred to as the "Jeffrey E. Epstein Scholarship Lodge". Interlochen officials noted that Epstein could use the lodge for up to two weeks each year and still legally get a full tax deduction for it. Documents and survivor accounts appear to show that Epstein utilized the lodge on numerous trips to Interlochen over the 1990's.

Article IV, Section 51 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 provides in relevant part: "The public health and general welfare of the people of the state are hereby declared to be matters of primary public concern." Tens of thousands of children from across the globe have attended Interlochen, in large part due to its prestige and acumen. Yet, survivors of Epstein claim that he was allowed a significant amount of access to otherwise unattended children during his visits. It is our collective duty to ensure the safety of all children who have attended or will attend Interlochen by investigating these allegations to ascertain whether children attending this esteemed academy were exposed to Jeffrey Epstein, the extent of Interlochen's awareness and response, and how it intends to protect children from sexual predators.

Additionally, this committee is authorized to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses and/or to examine the books and records of any persons, partnerships or corporations involved in a matter properly before the committee. We therefore ask the House Oversight Committee to utilize all necessary powers and processes to examine and investigate the Interlochen Center for the Arts and its relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. This is about ensuring that any institution receiving state funds has the appropriate institutional safeguards in place to protect children.

We ask you to please provide my office with an update as to whether you have opened a formal investigation into this matter as soon as possible, but no later than March 17, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to seek out justice for the many girls and women who have been impacted by Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes.

Sincerely,



Penelope Tsernoglou
State Representative
75th District



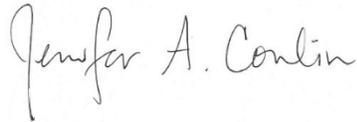
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State Representative
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