

Senator Hildenbrand offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 89.

A resolution recognizing September 17-23, 2017, as Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities Week.

Whereas, Michigan is home to 25 independent college and universities serving over 120,000 students; and

Whereas, While Michigan's student population has declined overall, enrollment at Michigan's independent colleges and universities has increased by 30 percent in the last 16 years; and

Whereas, Michigan's independent colleges and universities experienced a 21 percent growth in United States military veteran undergraduate enrollment from 2014-15, and a 33 percent enrollment increase for United States military veterans in graduate programs; and

Whereas, Thirty-nine percent of United States military veterans pursuing an undergraduate degree in Michigan do so at a Michigan independent college or university; and

Whereas, One of the most important factors in collegiate student success is affordability; and

Whereas, Eighty-one percent of students attending a Michigan independent college or university receive some form of financial aid via an institutional scholarship or grant, with the amount of scholarships and grants provided directly by institutions increasing by over \$246 million between 2005 and 2015--a 99 percent increase in 10 years; and

Whereas, Access to quality higher education is important for low-income students, women, minorities, and veterans; and

Whereas, Half of undergraduate students at Michigan's independent colleges and universities receive need-based Pell grants; and

Whereas, Students at independent colleges and universities in Michigan, earned 20,293 diplomas in 2015; and

Whereas, Over 80 percent of graduates from Michigan independent colleges and universities chose to live and work in the state after graduation; and

Whereas, Smaller colleges and universities--like many Michigan independent colleges and universities -- provide individualized support that a large institution cannot, both in the classroom and within the administration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body recognize September 17-23, 2017, as Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities Week.