

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.22

Rep. Garrett, Ellison, Haadsma, Kuppa, Liberati, Manoogian, Shannon, Sneller and Sowerby offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare February 2019 as Transparency in
2 Government Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Transparency in Government Month calls attention to
4 the fact that the government has an obligation to its citizens to
5 share information; and

6 Whereas, Governments exist to serve their citizens. Therefore,
7 their citizens should receive information on what their
8 representatives are doing, how their officials are spending
9 taxpayers' money, and how their government is handling various
10 issues; and

11 Whereas, In 2015, a study by the Center of Public Integrity



1 ranked Michigan last among all the states concerning government
2 accountability and transparency. A lack of government transparency
3 creates mistrust and frustration and increases the risk for
4 corruption. The absence of government transparency impacts every
5 person in Michigan; and

6 Whereas, Government transparency fosters government
7 participation, promotes good governance, improves government
8 efficiency and effectiveness, and combats corruption. Information
9 on the activities and policies of government allows the public to
10 participate in the democratic process and hold their government
11 accountable and allows residents to influence the decisions
12 affecting their lives and encourage their representatives to use
13 their power to affect change. Knowledge of government decisions and
14 processes empowers Michiganders to give feedback on how policies
15 are working in practice and how the allocation of government
16 resources can be improved. Access to information increases the
17 likelihood of discovering corrupt practices, acting as a deterrent
18 to corruption in the future; and

19 Whereas, Our state and local governments must be committed to
20 government transparency and accountability. When we actively
21 increase information between the government and its citizens, we
22 can foster good governance, improve government efficiency, and
23 combat corruption. We must work together to promote information
24 flowing freely between our government and its citizens; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
27 this legislative body declare February 2019 as Transparency in
28 Government Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the
29 efforts of national, state, and local partners to actively engage

1 in efforts to encourage government transparency.