

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Rep. Garrett 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
12 ranked Michigan last among all the states concerning government

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

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

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

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