

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

Senator Stamas offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize September 15-21, 2019, as Michigan  
2 Independent Colleges and Universities Week.

3       Whereas, Michigan is home to 25 independent colleges and  
4 universities that serve over 120,000 students; and

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

8       Whereas, Michigan independent colleges and universities  
9 experienced a 21 percent growth in United States military veteran  
10 undergraduate enrollment from 2014-2015 as well as a 33 percent  
11 enrollment increase for United States military veterans in graduate  
12 programs; and

1       Whereas, In our state, 39 percent of United States military  
2 veterans pursuing an undergraduate degree do so at a Michigan  
3 independent college or university; and

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

6       Whereas, In our state, 89 percent of students who attend an  
7 independent college or university receive some form of financial  
8 aid through an institutional scholarship or grant, with the amount  
9 of scholarships and grants provided directly by institutions  
10 increasing by over \$246 million between 2005 and 2015. This is a 99  
11 percent increase in ten years; and

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

14       Whereas, Half of undergraduate students at Michigan  
15 independent colleges and universities receive need-based Pell  
16 grants as well; and

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

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

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

26       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
27 body recognize September 15-21, 2019, as Michigan Independent  
28 Colleges and Universities Week.