

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 144

Reps. Young, Edwards, Pohutsky, Stone, Rogers, Dievendorf, Neeley, Miller, Rheingans, Morgan, Hill, Paiz, Hope, McKinney, McFall, Brabec, Coffia, Brenda Carter, Steckloff, Price, Haadsma, Hood, Scott, Grant, Arbit, Tyrone Carter, Johnsen, O'Neal, Thompson, Farhat, Byrnes, Andrews, Puri, Aiyash, Whitsett, Alexander, Bezotte, Breen, Churches, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Hoskins, Koleszar, Morse, Schuette and Weiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 2023 as Domestic Violence
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic
4 Violence (NCADV), Domestic Violence Awareness Month was launched
5 nationwide in October 1981 as a way to connect and unite
6 individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues

1 and raise awareness for those issues; and

2 Whereas, NCADV defines domestic violence as the willful
3 intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or
4 other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and
5 control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It
6 includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological
7 violence, and emotional abuse; and

8 Whereas, Domestic violence impacts individuals in every
9 community of our state, regardless of age, economic status, sexual
10 orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and

11 Whereas, Perpetrators of domestic violence intentionally
12 engage in a pattern of behavior to exert coercive control in
13 intimate partner relationships, violating the fundamental human
14 rights of those they abuse; and

15 Whereas, According to the NCADV, 36.1 percent of Michigan
16 women and 25.8 percent of Michigan men experience intimate partner
17 physical violence, intimate partner rape, and/or intimate partner
18 stalking in their lives. In fact, in just a single day in 2019, 16
19 Michigan domestic violence programs provided services to 417 adult
20 and child survivors. Another 376 requests for services went unmet
21 due to lack of resources. In 2019, 57,018 incidents of domestic
22 violence were reported to Michigan police. Many others went
23 unreported. In 2019, there were forty-four reported domestic
24 violence murders in Michigan; and

25 Whereas, While throughout the last three decades, much
26 progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and
27 survivors and to hold abusers accountable, continued awareness,
28 education, and action are crucial to intervention in, and
29 prevention of, domestic violence; and

1 Whereas, We must work together to educate our entire
2 population about what can be done to prevent domestic violence,
3 hold perpetrators accountable, support the individual and unique
4 needs of survivors, and ensure that survivors are not victimized;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
7 this legislative body declare October 2023 as Domestic Violence
8 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.