

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 259

Reps. Young, Rogers, MacDonell, Coffia, Whitsett, Hope, Farhat, Smit, Thompson, McKinney, Edwards, O'Neal, Grant, Neeley, Brenda Carter, Aiyash, Alexander, Bezotte, Brabec, Byrnes, Fitzgerald, Fox, Glanville, Haadsma, Hill, Hood, Miller, Paiz, Rheingans, Weiss, Witwer and Xiong offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare May 2024 as Foster Care Awareness  
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Recognizing National Foster Care Awareness Month is  
4 an opportunity to shine a light on the challenges children in the  
5 foster care system face and encouraging the Legislature to  
6 implement policy to continue to improve the lives of children in  
7 the foster care system. Legislation to improve the education of  
8 children in foster care in of was signed into law this year, more

1 work needs to be done; and

2       Whereas, It is also a time to acknowledge foster parents,  
3 family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, and child  
4 welfare professionals who help children and youth in foster care  
5 find permanent homes and connections. We use this time to renew our  
6 commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 391,000  
7 children and youth in foster care across the country and we  
8 celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives;  
9 and

10       Whereas, Children in foster care who are placed with  
11 relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more  
12 stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more  
13 positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be  
14 placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral  
15 problems; and

16       Whereas, An increased emphasis on prevention and reunification  
17 services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are  
18 forced to remain in the foster care system; and

19       Whereas, More than 18,000 youth "age out" of foster care every  
20 year without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family,  
21 according to the National Foster Youth Institute; and

22       Whereas, Children who age out of foster care lack the security  
23 and support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently  
24 struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance,  
25 pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment; and

26       Whereas, Children entering foster care often confront the  
27 widespread misperception that children in foster care are  
28 disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster  
29 care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the

1 child; and

2           Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Health and  
3 Human Services, children in foster care may be at greater risk for  
4 mental health problems; now, therefore, be it

5           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
6 this legislative body declare May 2024 as Foster Care Awareness  
7 Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage more citizens to  
8 volunteer their time to become mentors to children in foster care  
9 and we realize that the state of Michigan must do more to support  
10 these children and prepare them to live healthy and productive  
11 lives.