

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 129

Rep. Koleszar offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare September 2023 as Deaf Awareness Month  
2 in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, As the deaf population includes a wide range of  
4 individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use  
5 American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication to  
6 those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other  
7 forms of amplification and communication modes; and

8           Whereas, According to the Michigan Division on Deaf,  
9 DeafBlind, Blind, and Hard of Hearing, at least 7.4 percent of the  
10 Michigan population identify as deaf, deafblind, or hard of  
11 hearing; and

12           Whereas, Michigan benefits from the many contributions of  
13 deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing residents throughout the

1 state; and

2       Whereas, Michigan is enriched by the diverse and unique  
3 heritage, language, and culture of the deaf community; and

4       Whereas, People who identify themselves as deaf belong to a  
5 cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social  
6 norms, rules of behavior, and history; and

7       Whereas, It is important to ensure that Michigan's deaf,  
8 deafblind, or hard of hearing individuals have equal access to the  
9 many benefits and opportunities available to hearing individuals to  
10 live, work, play, and communicate in Michigan; and

11       Whereas, To commemorate the first congress of the World  
12 Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951, the  
13 State of Michigan recognizes the entire month of September as Deaf  
14 Awareness Month; and

15       Whereas, The purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase  
16 public awareness of the issues and the culture of people who are  
17 deaf, as well as to promote equal access to information and  
18 services for deaf individuals, to educate the public about the  
19 misconceptions of being deaf, and to learn about the types of  
20 educational programs, support services, and resources available to  
21 people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; now, therefore,  
22 be it

23       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
24 this legislative body declare September 2023 as Deaf Awareness  
25 Month in the state of Michigan.