

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 147

Reps. Coffia, Hill, Hope, Hood, McKinney, Mentzer, Stone, Brabec, Rheingans and Snyder offered the following resolution:

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

3 Whereas, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the inaugural
4 National Book Month, which the National Book Foundation first
5 initiated in 2003; and

6 Whereas, The month-long celebration focuses on the importance
7 of reading, writing, and literature, while also providing a time to
8 honor the nation's best books and authors, as the National Book
9 Awards announces the year's finalists every October; and

10 Whereas, The purpose of National Book Month is to encourage
11 reading, an activity that has been proven to have many advantages.
12 Reading can help anyone build excellent vocabulary, improve memory,

1 increase knowledge, and decrease anxiety; and

2 Whereas, Studies have shown that there is a positive
3 correlation between access to books and literacy proficiency, as
4 well as academic outcomes; and

5 Whereas, Improving academic outcomes will bring Michigan
6 closer to the state's sixty by thirty goal of increasing the number
7 of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree
8 from 50.5% today to 60% by 2030; and

9 Whereas, Meeting this goal will promote better jobs, bigger
10 paychecks, and make Michigan more competitive for inclusive
11 economic growth; and

12 Whereas, Public and school libraries were created to offer
13 equal access to information, and continue to serve as a critical
14 source of books and other informational materials; and

15 Whereas, Librarians at public and school libraries work
16 tirelessly to ensure that these materials are available,
17 accessible, and open to all; and

18 Whereas, While reading books offers multi-faceted benefits to
19 children and adults alike, equitable access remains a challenge for
20 certain communities; and

21 Whereas, Rural and other underserved communities in particular
22 struggle to achieve equal and equitable access to books; and

23 Whereas, Libraries in rural communities have faced closures
24 over challenges to the types of books and information that they
25 provide; and

26 Whereas, This has ultimately resulted in further barriers to
27 information in already underserved communities; and

28 Whereas, These barriers further compound in the form of lower
29 regional economic outcomes that can be felt across the entire state

1 of Michigan; and

2 Whereas, Michigan's economic success is consistently a top
3 priority for Michiganders across the state; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare October 2023 as Book Month in the
6 state of Michigan. We recognize the importance of accessibility to
7 books in meeting Michigan's goals related to literacy rates,
8 academic outcomes, and economic prosperity.