

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 259

Reps. Young, Rogers, MacDonell, Coffia, Whitsett, Hope, Farhat, Smit, Thompson, McKinney, Edwards, O'Neal, Grant, Neeley and Brenda Carter 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
9 work needs to be done; and

10 Whereas, It is also a time to acknowledge foster parents,

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Health and

1 Human Services, children in foster care may be at greater risk for
2 mental health problems; now, therefore, be it

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