

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 42

Reps. Schroeder, Paquette, Bollin, Howell, Berman, Hertel, Wozniak, Garrett, Stone, Koleszar, Lasinski, Filler, Huizenga, Inman, Hauck, Crawford, Bellino, Wittenberg, Kuppa, Guerra, Camilleri, Rendon and Allor offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 10-16, 2019, as Sunshine Week in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Sunshine Week is a national initiative spearheaded by
4 the American Society of News Editors to educate the public about
5 the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and
6 unnecessary secrecy. The first nationwide Sunshine Week took place
7 March 13-19, 2005. Sunshine Week was established to spark a
8 discussion about the importance of open government and public
9 access to government documents and meetings; and

10 Whereas, The American public has relied on a free press for

1 more than two centuries to stay informed about the many activities
2 in which our government engages. Thomas Jefferson penned in his
3 letter to Elbridge Gerry on January 26, 1799, that "I am ... for
4 freedom of the press, and against all violations of the
5 Constitution to silence by force and not by reason the complaints
6 or criticisms, just or unjust, of our citizens against the conduct
7 of their agents." Six U.S. Supreme Court justices ruled in favor of
8 the Freedom of the Press in *New York Times Co. v. United States*,
9 with Justice Black concurring, "Only a free and unrestrained press
10 can effectively expose deception in government."; and

11 Whereas, An open and accessible government is vital to
12 establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in
13 their government and in the government's ability to effectively
14 serve its citizens and free press is an essential part of that
15 mission; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
17 this legislative body declare March 10-16, 2019, as Sunshine Week
18 in the state of Michigan. The House of Representatives realizes
19 every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right
20 to access to government meetings and public records and is
21 committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of its
22 operations and seeks to set a standard in this regard.