

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 124

Reps. Lasinski, Yancey, Ellison, Sabo, Byrd, Tate, Mueller, Vaupel, Howell, Love, Rabhi, Hoadley, Pohutsky, Warren and Jones offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare June 14, 2019, as Fisher House Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Michigan now boasts among its citizens more than
4 670,000 veterans, many of whom are recently returned home from
5 service in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

6 Whereas, The Veterans' Administration Ann Arbor Healthcare
7 System (VAAAHS) provides state-of-the-art healthcare for hundreds
8 of thousands of veterans living in Michigan and Ohio; and

9 Whereas, The VAAAHS serves as a referral center for specialty
10 care, providing critical medical treatment that unavailable in
11 other Veterans' Administration (VA) facilities, including trans-



1 aortic valve replacement, deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's
2 Disease, and access to the Traumatic Brain Injury Center; and

3 Whereas, Each year, the VAAHS serves veterans by providing
4 more than 630,000 outpatient visits and over 5,000 inpatient
5 admissions in their care centers; and

6 Whereas, Many VAAHS patients travel a long distance to
7 receive care, which can present a significant barrier to healthcare
8 for these veterans and their families and caregivers. Over 500
9 housing requests are made each month to Veteran Affairs Medical
10 Centers in southeast Michigan by family members for the purpose of
11 traveling with their veteran as he or she receives care; and

12 Whereas, Family support and engagement has been shown to
13 significantly improve patient outcomes. The Fisher House Program
14 provides a free-of-charge "home away from home" for families of
15 patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical
16 centers; and

17 Whereas, There are currently 71 Fisher Houses located in 27
18 states. In May 2016, Fisher House Michigan, a nonprofit
19 organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code, was
20 formed with the purpose of bringing the first Fisher House to
21 Michigan; and

22 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and the
23 Fisher House Foundation approved a location at the VAAHS in
24 November 2016. The construction will be funded by a \$5 million
25 capital campaign by Fisher House Michigan, as well as matching
26 funds from The Fisher House Foundation, a nationwide nonprofit
27 organization. Once it is complete, the Fisher House at the VAAHS
28 will provide 5,840 nights annually of free lodging to veterans'
29 family members and caregivers; now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
2 this legislative body declare June 14, 2019, as Fisher House Day in
3 the state of Michigan. We recognize and commend the groundbreaking
4 of the first Fisher House in Michigan; and be it further

5 Resolved, That we encourage the citizens of Michigan to
6 support these efforts.