

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 291

Reps. Brenda Carter, Sabo, Weiss, Rabhi, Stone, Hope, Garza, Sowerby, Breen, Haadsma, Scott, Anthony and Tyrone Carter offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the Michigan Legislature to provide all  
2 state employees \$2,000 in Public Employee Recognition Pay.

3       Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on  
4 state employees. Difficulties with retention and struggles to fill  
5 vacant positions have forced civil servants to take on expanded  
6 roles and responsibilities. Across state government, the number of  
7 full-time employee equivalents has declined significantly over the  
8 last two-plus years; and

9       Whereas, Through this turbulence, state employees have shown  
10 incredible resilience and dedication to serving Michigan taxpayers.  
11 State employees have had to demonstrate immense flexibility to

1 adapt to rapidly changing policies and demands. Many state  
2 employees put their own health at risk to provide the public with  
3 critical support and life-saving services throughout this  
4 unprecedented crisis; and

5       Whereas, One group of workers who faced, and continue to face,  
6 increased risk of COVID-19 infection are Michigan's Department of  
7 Health and Human Services (DHHS) microbiologists and laboratory  
8 scientists. In addition to their normal workload, these employees  
9 are responsible for the bulk of the COVID-19 tests, often working  
10 12 to 15 hours a day, 7 days per week, to handle this immense  
11 responsibility. These unsung heroes in the fight against this  
12 virus, like Michigan's nurses and doctors, face a heightened risk  
13 of infection, along with bringing the virus home to their families,  
14 and yet they have been forgotten by the state concerning hazard pay  
15 and other accolades; and

16       Whereas, Technical Unit Workers within the Michigan Department  
17 of Transportation (MDOT) put themselves and their families in  
18 harm's way to ensure continuity and reliability in maintaining and  
19 repairing our bridges and roads. These essential workers and  
20 unsung heroes continue to do critical work despite difficulties and  
21 issues that existed in the early stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic,  
22 such as a lack of proper PPE and an inability to access rest areas  
23 and restaurants as many were closed to ensure the safety of  
24 Michiganders and stem the spread of the deadly coronavirus; and

25       Whereas, Countless state employees, including forensic  
26 scientists, conservation officers, food inspectors, transportation  
27 engineers, drafting techs, geologists, pharmacy assistants, migrant  
28 service workers, dental hygienists, aircraft pilots, unemployment  
29 insurance examiners, Native American outreach workers,

1 environmental quality analysts, fisheries biologists, and hundreds  
2 of other classifications, did everything asked of them to keep  
3 Michigan moving forward. All indispensable to the state's effort,  
4 they put our state and the services it provides to Michigan  
5 residents before their personal health and safety; and

6       Whereas, As Michigan's elected leaders, it is our  
7 responsibility to properly compensate state employees for their  
8 sacrifices and dedication during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Not only is  
9 this hazard pay warranted for their work over the last two years  
10 but it will also improve our ability to attract and retain  
11 employees moving forward; now, therefore, be it

12       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
13 Michigan Legislature to provide all state employees \$2,000 in  
14 Public Employee Recognition Pay; and be it further

15       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
16 Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Minority  
17 Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Majority  
18 Leader of the Michigan Senate, and the Minority Leader of the  
19 Michigan Senate.