

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Reps. Morgan, Alexander, Arbit, Bierlein, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Morse, Weiss, Wilson and Young offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare February 28, 2023, as Rare Disease Day  
2 in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, There are approximately 7,000 diseases and conditions  
4 considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans in the  
5 United States), according to the National Institutes of Health  
6 (NIH); and

7           Whereas, While each of these diseases may affect small numbers  
8 of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million  
9 Americans and thousands of Michigan residents; and

10           Whereas, Many rare diseases are chronic, progressive, and  
11 debilitating, significantly impacting the lives of those affected;  
12 and

1           Whereas, While more than 800 drugs and biologics have been  
2 approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the  
3 treatment of rare diseases, millions of Americans have rare  
4 diseases for which no treatments are available; and

5           Whereas, Individuals and families affected by rare diseases  
6 often experience challenges such as diagnostic delay, difficulty  
7 finding medical experts, and lack of access to treatments or  
8 ancillary services; and

9           Whereas, The rare disease community is often underrepresented  
10 in funding, research, clinical trials, and advocacy efforts, with  
11 much of the burden to raise public awareness and support placed on  
12 those affected; and

13           Whereas, The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
14 is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on  
15 February 28, 2023; and

16           Whereas, Thousands of patients, caregivers, medical  
17 professionals, researchers, pharmaceutical companies, and others in  
18 Michigan will participate in this observance; now, therefore, be it

19           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
20 this legislative body declare February 28, 2023, as Rare Disease  
21 Day in the state of Michigan.