

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Rep. Miller offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare April 16, 2023, as Healthcare  
2 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16, 2023,  
4 and is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead  
5 for healthcare decisions related to end-of-life care and medical  
6 decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for  
7 themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives  
8 to communicate these important healthcare decisions; and

9           Whereas, It is estimated that only about 20 percent of people  
10 in Michigan have executed an advance directive, in part due to a  
11 lack of knowledge about advance directives and considerable public  
12 confusion arising from advance directives that are often written in  
13 difficult to understand legal and medical terms; and

1           Whereas, Easy-to-understand advance directives that are  
2 written in plain language, such as those provided by Five Wishes  
3 and distributed by the non-profit organization Aging with Dignity,  
4 are desirable because they enable completion and foster important  
5 family discussions; and

6           Whereas, Because Five Wishes is available in 30 languages,  
7 citizens of our ethnic and culturally diverse state can state their  
8 wishes about comfort, dignity, and the personal, family, and  
9 spiritual issues that matter most; and

10           Whereas, Michigan citizens can complete an advanced directive  
11 and submit it to the statewide registry called Peace of Mind; and

12           Whereas, One of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions  
13 Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living  
14 facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to  
15 participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent  
16 information to the public about advance directives and increase the  
17 number of Michigan residents with advance directives; and

18           Whereas, Many of the Michigan healthcare, business, faith  
19 based groups, and senior services organizations have demonstrated  
20 commendable leadership in furthering patient and caregiver-focused  
21 advance care planning, and are committed to educating the public  
22 about the importance of discussing healthcare choices and  
23 completing advance directives; and

24           Whereas, As a result of April 16, 2023, being recognized as  
25 Healthcare Decisions Day throughout Michigan, more citizens will  
26 have conversations about their healthcare decisions; more citizens  
27 will execute advance directives to make their wishes known; and  
28 fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with  
29 making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance

1 from the patient; now, therefore, be it

2       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
3 this legislative body declare April 16, 2023, as Healthcare  
4 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan. We call this observance to  
5 the attention of all citizens.