

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 95

Reps. Young, Pohutsky, Meerman, Skaggs, McKinney, Neeley, O'Neal, Smit, Fink, Brenda Carter, DeSana, Phil Green, Fox, Dievendorf, Miller, Slagh, Paiz, Morgan, Hill, Coffia, Steckloff, Edwards, Hope, Hood, Price, Farhat, Scott, Haadsma, Churches, Puri, Witwer, Weiss, Koleszar, Conlin, MacDonell, Martus, Arbit, Fitzgerald, Grant, Stone, Aiyash, Whitsett, Tyrone Carter, Glanville, Rheingans, Wilson, Wegela, Tsernoglou, McFall, Brabec, Mentzer, Roth, St. Germaine and Hoskins offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 2023 as Foster Care Awareness
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Recognizing National Foster Care Awareness Month is
4 an opportunity to shine a light on the challenges children in the
5 foster care system face and encouraging the Legislature to

1 implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster
2 care system; and

3 Whereas, It is also a time to acknowledge foster parents,
4 family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, and child
5 welfare professionals who help children and youth in foster care
6 find permanent homes and connections. We use this time to renew our
7 commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 407,000
8 children and youth in foster care and we celebrate those who make a
9 meaningful difference in their lives; and

10 Whereas, Children in foster care who are placed with
11 relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more
12 stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more
13 positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be
14 placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral
15 problems; and

16 Whereas, An increased emphasis on prevention and reunification
17 services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are
18 forced to remain in the foster care system; and

19 Whereas, More than 23,000 youth "age out" of foster care every
20 year without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family,
21 according to the National Foster Youth Institute; and

22 Whereas, Children who age out of foster care lack the security
23 and support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently
24 struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance,
25 pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment; and

26 Whereas, Children entering foster care often confront the
27 widespread misperception that children in foster care are
28 disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster
29 care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the

1 child; and

2 Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Health and
3 Human Services, children in foster care may be at greater risk for
4 mental health problems; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
6 this legislative body declare May 2023 as Foster Care Awareness
7 Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage more citizens to
8 volunteer their time to become mentors to children in foster care
9 and we realize that the state of Michigan must do more to support
10 these children and prepare them to live healthy and productive
11 lives.