

Rep. Zemke offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 79.

A resolution to urge the Michigan Department of Education to establish an academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Michigan students.

Whereas, The fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, also known as the STEM fields, are important to a vital and thriving nation, especially in a world of continuous and rapid technological advancement. STEM studies can provide the education students need to contribute and thrive in Michigan's rapidly changing economy and workforce. STEM graduates will help ensure a qualified workforce that will help grow Michigan's economy; and

Whereas, Recent studies have found that fewer than one-third of American eighth graders are proficient in math and science, only one-third of the bachelor's degrees earned in the United States are in a STEM field, and more than half of the science and engineering graduate students in American colleges are from outside the United States. The statistics are the same or worse for Michigan; and

Whereas, The establishment of academic competition in the STEM fields among Michigan students will result in a deeper appreciation and enthusiasm for STEM education. Support and recognition for student achievement in STEM education will encourage the pursuit of STEM studies and career paths. If more students study in STEM fields, the collaborative efforts between our higher education system and STEM-related fields and industries will be enhanced, which will strengthen the economy of our state and nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that we urge the Michigan Department of Education to establish an academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Michigan students; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Michigan State Board of Education.