

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.21

Senators Polehanki, McMorrow, Bayer, McCann, Irwin, Wojno, Runestad, Geiss and Zorn offered the following concurrent resolution:

1           A concurrent resolution to support the United Nations' efforts  
2 to eliminate female genital mutilation worldwide, and urge the  
3 state of Michigan to do everything it can to end female genital  
4 mutilation in the state.

5           Whereas, Female genital mutilation is a harmful practice that  
6 involves the removal of all or part of the female genitalia. It is  
7 a human rights violation and serves no medical purpose; and

8           Whereas, Female genital mutilation has serious implications  
9 for the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women. Victims  
10 of female genital mutilation experience psychological trauma, pain,  
11 shock, bleeding, and other immediate injuries. Victims also face  
12 long-term consequences such as complications during childbirth,  
13 anemia, the formation of cysts and abscesses, painful sexual

1 intercourse, sexual dysfunction, increased risk of HIV  
2 transmission, and numerous other problems; and

3       Whereas, Female genital mutilation is a barbaric practice  
4 performed all over the world as a means of controlling girls and  
5 women. An estimated 200 million girls and women alive today have  
6 been subjected to female genital mutilation worldwide, and roughly  
7 half a million girls and women in the United States have undergone  
8 female genital mutilation or are considered to be at risk for it in  
9 the near future; and

10       Whereas, The United Nations passed a historic resolution in  
11 2012 calling on all countries to intensify global efforts to  
12 eliminate female genital mutilation. Countless other organizations,  
13 countries, states, provinces, and municipalities have worked to end  
14 female genital mutilation, but much more work needs to be done to  
15 support the mission outlined in the resolution; and

16       Whereas, The state of Michigan has the ability to make a  
17 significant difference in the fight against female genital  
18 mutilation. By passing stronger criminal laws, devoting resources  
19 to investigations, and engaging in a robust public health awareness  
20 campaign, the state can save girls from this horrible crime and  
21 hold perpetrators accountable; now, therefore, be it

22       Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives  
23 concurring), That we support the United Nations' efforts to  
24 eliminate female genital mutilation worldwide, and urge the state  
25 of Michigan to do everything it can to end female genital  
26 mutilation in the state; and be it further

27       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
28 Secretary General of the United Nations, the United States Mission  
29 to the United Nations, the Governor, the Attorney General, and the

- 1 directors of the Department of State Police and Department of
- 2 Health and Human Services.