

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272**

1       A resolution to commemorate June 11, 2020, as the celebration  
2 of the 75th anniversary of the Michigan Association for Justice and  
3 express appreciation for the organization's contributions to  
4 promoting and protecting a fair and effective justice system in  
5 Michigan and safeguarding the 7th Amendment of the United States  
6 Constitution.

7       Whereas, It is an honor for the members of the Michigan  
8 Legislature to join in saluting the Michigan Association for  
9 Justice (MAJ) as it marks 75 years of service in jurisprudence.  
10 This renowned group was formed in 1945 with approximately twenty  
11 lawyers who were specialists in workers' compensation. Mr. Sam  
12 Charfoos served as the first president of the organization which is



1 dedicated to ensuring access to the civil justice system and  
2 defending our cherished right to a civil trial by jury; and

3       Whereas, The 7th Amendment to the United States Constitution  
4 grants every American the right to a civil trial by jury. Over the  
5 years, members of MAJ have fought courageously to protect the  
6 rights of consumers, workers, children, and families from powerful  
7 forces aligned against them. Trial lawyers are champions for  
8 vulnerable people who would otherwise have no voice; and

9       Whereas, The Constitution of Michigan of 1963, Article 1,  
10 Section 14, states that "The right of [civil] trial by jury shall  
11 remain." We applaud the efforts of MAJ members to keep the justice  
12 system fair and open. Through effective efforts on behalf of  
13 innocent victims, civil rights, and equal rights, many people have  
14 gained access to justice, and many others have been protected by  
15 the precedents that certain of these cases have set. The  
16 accomplishments of the Michigan Association for Justice in  
17 fulfilling its mission of promoting and protecting a fair and  
18 effective justice system and ensuring that any person who is  
19 injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain  
20 justice in Michigan's courtrooms stand as a bulwark against  
21 unfairness, inequity, and injustice. Its 75 years of vigilance and  
22 attainment gives great significance to this notable milestone in  
23 MAJ history; now, therefore, be it

24       Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the members of  
25 this legislative body commemorate June 11, 2020, as the celebration  
26 of the 75th anniversary of the Michigan Association for Justice and  
27 express appreciation for the organization's contributions to  
28 promoting and protecting a fair and effective justice system in  
29 Michigan and safeguarding the 7th amendment of the United States

1 Constitution; and be if further

2       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to MAJ  
3 President Robert J. MacDonald, MAJ President-Elect Donna M.  
4 MacKenzie, MAJ Vice President Ronald K. Weiner, Executive Director  
5 Stephen V. Pontoni, and the membership and staff of this admirable  
6 organization as evidence of the Michigan Legislature's lasting  
7 respect and admiration.