

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.39

Senators McCann, Brinks, Polehanki, Ananich, Alexander, Hollier, Chang VanderWall, Bayer, Bullock, Daley, Geiss, Lucido, McMorrow, Moss, Santana and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize May 7, 2019, as Michigan Foster Care  
2 Day.

3       Whereas, May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, and  
4 during that time, we reflect on the dedication of foster and  
5 kinship caregivers, faith-based and community organizations, and  
6 child welfare professionals who are improving the lives of children  
7 and youth in foster care throughout the country; and

8       Whereas, Michigan is deeply indebted to these selfless and  
9 compassionate Americans; and

10       Whereas, We also observe this month with sadness because of

1 the plight of innocent children who are in foster care and who have  
2 had their lives disrupted by neglect or abuse; and

3       Whereas, Providing a stable, secure, and nurturing home  
4 environment is one of the greatest gifts a foster parent or  
5 guardian can give a child; and

6       Whereas, This critical investment in their well-being, safety,  
7 and sense of belonging brings precious hope to children in need.

8 With gratitude, we acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices made by  
9 our foster families as they open their hearts and lives and provide  
10 secure and supportive home for the hundreds of thousands of  
11 infants, children, and youth in foster care; and

12       Whereas, We also take this opportunity to acknowledge that  
13 there is still much more we can do to prevent the abuse and neglect  
14 that forces children into foster care placements. As the number of  
15 children placed in foster care continues to increase, driven in  
16 part by the opioid crisis and drug abuse, we are dedicated to  
17 bringing help and healing to families threatened by addiction so  
18 that parents and children can stay together in a safe and stable  
19 home environment; and

20       Whereas, We are blessed that our country is filled with  
21 generous individuals and families who willingly welcome children in  
22 need into their homes so that they can experience loving  
23 guardianship and some of the joys of family life. Many of these  
24 heroic families provide foster care for children with complex  
25 medical and challenging psychological and behavioral needs; and

26       Whereas, During May, we look to set aside a special day as an  
27 opportunity to raise awareness about the increasing number of  
28 children and youth entering foster care and to encourage Americans  
29 to invest in the lives of some of Michigan's most vulnerable

1 children and families; now, therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
3 body recognize May 7, 2019, as Michigan Foster Care Day; and be it  
4 further

5 Resolved, That we call upon all Michiganders to observe this  
6 day, and the entire month of May, by taking the time to help  
7 children and youth in foster care, while also recognizing the  
8 commitment of those who touch their lives, particularly by  
9 celebrating their foster parents and other caregivers.