

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.51

Reps. Hertel, Elder, Stone, Sowerby, Kennedy, Witwer, Lasinski, Pagan, Jones and Love offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 22, 2019, as Youth Parenting
2 Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, There were 5,307 births to teen mothers in Michigan
4 in 2017, which accounted for 4.8% of all births in the state. In
5 2015, 17% of births to teens ages 15-19 were repeat births; and

6 Whereas, The state has shown commitment to supporting all
7 individuals in their parenting responsibilities with the prior
8 enactment of Parenting Awareness Month in March, yet there is no
9 youth-specific parenting awareness day in Michigan that recognizes
10 young parents and those who work with and support them; and

11 Whereas, Young parents deserve equal support, services, and



1 resources as other parents to ensure the health and well-being of
2 their children. Parenting is a choice and all individuals who elect
3 to become parents should be respected in their choice; and

4 Whereas, Young parents often face additional hardships in
5 educational achievement, employment opportunities, financial
6 stability; dating, interpersonal, and sexual violence; mental
7 health, housing access, child care services, and receiving quality
8 maternal and infant health; and

9 Whereas, With support, young parents are more likely to finish
10 high school, get their GED, pursue higher level education, achieve
11 and retain employment, and maintain stable housing. Supporting
12 young parents leads to better health and social outcomes for the
13 children of young parents; and

14 Whereas, Current discourse of pregnancy prevention stigmatizes
15 and marginalizes teen parents and does not accurately reflect the
16 lived experiences of many young families. There are many young
17 parents and families who are happy, healthy, and thriving; and

18 Whereas, Young parents are important contributing members
19 within their communities across the state of Michigan; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
22 this legislative body declare March 22, 2019, as Michigan Youth
23 Parenting Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.