

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.53

Rep. Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2019 as Michigan Student Athlete
2 Cardiac Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The state of Michigan has lost at least 72 students
4 to sudden cardiac arrest and related causes since December 1999;
5 and

6 Whereas, Those students lost include 15-year-old Kimberly Anne
7 Gillary, a student of Troy Athens High School who suffered a sudden
8 cardiac arrest in a high school water polo game at Birmingham
9 Groves High School on April 1, 2000; Kayla Stanford, a student at
10 Ypsilanti East Middle School, who suffered a cardiac arrest after
11 completing track practice on March 29, 2006; Thomas Noah Smith, a
12 student of Flushing High School, who suffered a sudden cardiac



1 arrest on January 29, 2011; and Wes Leonard, a student at Fennville
2 High school who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest after scoring the
3 winning basket in a basketball game on March 3, 2011: and

4 Whereas, The families of Kimberly Anne Gillary, Kayla
5 Stanford, Thomas Noah Smith, and Wes Leonard have established
6 Foundations (the "Foundations") in the memory of their lost sons
7 and daughters to try to prevent other families from losing their
8 sons and daughters to sudden cardiac arrest at school; and

9 Whereas, The Foundations have donated more than 1,100
10 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to high schools and
11 intermediate schools in the state of Michigan and have provided
12 training to teachers and staff on the use of an AED and in CPR; and

13 Whereas, The vast majority of all Michigan high schools now
14 have at least one AED on site due in part to the efforts of the
15 Foundations founded by the families and by other concerned
16 organizations; and

17 Whereas, In the past five years, there have been at least 22
18 lives saved including 10 students at Michigan K-12 schools as a
19 result of the use of school AEDs, some of which were donated by the
20 Foundations and other concerned organizations; and

21 Whereas, As a result of the efforts of the Foundations, the
22 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the
23 Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) there is an
24 increased awareness of the importance of more effective pre-
25 participation screening of our high school student athletes and of
26 having readily available AEDs in our high schools; and

27 Whereas, The Foundations have worked with the Michigan
28 Department of Health and Human Services to develop the Michigan
29 HeartSafe School Program and to encourage Michigan high schools to

1 receive certification as a Michigan HeartSafe School. To date,
2 there are 442 K-12 schools in Michigan that have received the MI
3 HeartSafe School designation; and

4 Whereas, The Michigan Legislature has passed legislation to
5 amend MCL 29.19 to require the governing body of any school in
6 Michigan for grades K-12 to adopt and implement a Cardiac Emergency
7 Response Plan for the school; and

8 Whereas, House Bill 4713 was signed into law on February 25,
9 2014, thereby establishing that it is the public policy of the
10 State of Michigan that Michigan schools be adequately prepared to
11 respond to a cardiac emergency on school property; and

12 Whereas, Senate Bill No. 647 was signed into law on December
13 28, 2016. It is now Public Act 388 of 2016 and requires all
14 students in grades 7-12 to receive instruction in cardiopulmonary
15 resuscitation (CPR) before graduation; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
17 this legislative body declare April 2019 as Michigan Student
18 Athlete Cardiac Awareness Month in the state of Michigan; and be it
19 further

20 Resolved, That the people of the state of Michigan are
21 encouraged to become more aware of the importance of improved pre-
22 participation screening of our student athletes and the
23 preparedness of our citizenry and public employees to respond to
24 the sudden cardiac arrest of our sons and daughters while entrusted
25 to our public schools in the course of their education; and be it
26 further

27 Resolved, That the State Board of Education be urged to
28 include provisions in policies and regulations for AED training in
29 student health education courses and for regular AED drills, so

1 that students and staff will be better prepared to use AEDs to save
2 lives in schools and other public places; and be it further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to The
4 Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation, The KAYLA Foundation, The Thomas
5 Smith Memorial Foundation, The Wes Leonard Heart Team, the Michigan
6 High School Athletic Association, the Michigan Department of Health
7 and Human Services, and the State Board of Education as a symbol of
8 our support.