

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

Rep. Hope offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 16, 2019, as Healthcare
2 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16, 2019,
4 and is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead
5 for health care decisions related to end of life care and medical
6 decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for
7 themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives
8 to communicate these important health care decisions; and

9 Whereas, It is estimated that only about 20 percent of people
10 in Michigan have executed an advance directive, in part due to a
11 lack of knowledge about advance directives and considerable public
12 confusion arising from advance directives that are often written in
13 difficult to understand legal and medical terms; and



1 Whereas, Easy-to-understand advance directives that are
2 written in plain language, such as Five Wishes and Elder Law of
3 Michigan, distributed by the non-profit organization Aging with
4 Dignity, are desirable because they enable completion and foster
5 important family discussions; and

6 Whereas, Because Five Wishes is available in 29 languages and
7 in Braille, citizens of our ethnic and culturally diverse state
8 can, like English speakers, state their wishes about comfort,
9 dignity, and the personal, family, and spiritual issues that matter
10 most; and

11 Whereas, Michigan citizens can complete an advanced directive
12 and submit it to the statewide registry called Peace of Mind; and

13 Whereas, One of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions
14 Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living
15 facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to
16 participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent
17 information to the public about advance directives and increase the
18 number of Michigan residents with advance directives; and

19 Whereas, Many of the Michigan health care, business, faith-
20 based groups, and senior services organizations have demonstrated
21 commendable leadership in furthering patient and caregiver-focused
22 advance care planning, and are committed to educating the public
23 about the importance of discussing health care choices and
24 completing advance directives; and

25 Whereas, As a result of April 16, 2019, being recognized as
26 Healthcare Decisions Day throughout Michigan, more citizens will
27 have conversations about their health care decisions, more citizens
28 will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and
29 fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with

1 making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance
2 from the patient; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
4 this legislative body declare April 16, 2019, as Healthcare
5 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan. We call this observance to
6 the attention of all our citizens.