

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272

Reps. Lasinski, Brixie, Pagan, Sabo, Greig, Sowerby, Hood, Ellison, Rabhi, Pohutsky, Yancey, Tate, Kuppa, Witwer, Wozniak, Hertel, Tyrone Carter, Koleszar, Warren, Stone, Clemente, Hope, Kennedy, Cynthia Neeley, Wittenberg, Cherry, Gay-Dagnogo, Cynthia Johnson, Shannon, Bolden, Hoadley, Camilleri, Guerra, Manoogian, Liberati, Brenda Carter, Coleman, Sneller, Hammoud, Elder, Chirkun, Peterson, Marino, Howell, LaGrand, Byrd, Whitsett, Jones, Garza, Cambensy, Haadsma and Garrett offered the following resolution:

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



1 Whereas, It is an honor for the members of the Michigan
2 Legislature to join in saluting the Michigan Association for
3 Justice (MAJ) as it marks 75 years of service in jurisprudence.
4 This renowned group was formed in 1945 with approximately twenty
5 lawyers who were specialists in workers' compensation. Mr. Sam
6 Charfoos served as the first president of the organization which is
7 dedicated to ensuring access to the civil justice system and
8 defending our cherished right to a civil trial by jury; and

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

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

1 Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the members of
2 this legislative body commemorate the celebration of the 75th
3 anniversary of the Michigan Association for Justice and express
4 appreciation for the organization's contributions to promoting and
5 protecting a fair and effective justice system in Michigan and
6 safeguarding the 7th amendment of the United States Constitution;
7 and be it further

8 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to MAJ
9 President Robert J. MacDonald, MAJ President-Elect Donna M.
10 MacKenzie, MAJ Vice President Ronald K. Weiner, Executive Director
11 Stephen V. Pontoni, and the membership and staff of this admirable
12 organization as evidence of the Michigan Legislature's lasting
13 respect and admiration.