

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.39

Senators McCann, Brinks, Polehanki, Ananich, Alexander, Hollier, Chang and VanderWall 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
11 the plight of innocent children who are in foster care and who have

1 had their lives disrupted by neglect or abuse; and

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

5 Whereas, This critical investment in their well-being, safety,
6 and sense of belonging brings precious hope to children in need.
7 With gratitude, we acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices made by
8 our foster families as they open their hearts and lives and provide
9 secure and supportive home for the hundreds of thousands of
10 infants, children, and youth in foster care; and

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

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

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

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

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