

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

Reps. Wakeman, Farrington, Allor, Breen, Cherry, Clemente, Garza, Haadsma, Kahle, Kuppa, Shannon, Sneller, Stone, Weiss and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2021 as Financial Literacy Month
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The informed use of credit and other financial
4 products and services benefits individual consumers and promotes
5 economic growth; and

6 Whereas, Financial literacy and learning these skills at an
7 early age encourages greater economic self-sufficiency, higher
8 levels of successful homeownership, and enhanced retirement
9 security, particularly among low-and moderate-income citizens; and

10 Whereas, Michigan has formally participated in financial
11 literacy programming for eighteen years through the collaboration

1 and coordinated effort of hundreds of organizations including
2 financial institutions, non-profit groups, government entities,
3 schools, and libraries. The initiative showcases these
4 organizations' educational resources, strengthens public-private
5 partnerships, engages the media, and connects people with resources
6 to help them better manage their money; and

7 Whereas, A greater understanding of and familiarity with
8 financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic
9 activity and growth; and

10 Whereas, Sixty-two percent of U.S. adults have carried credit
11 card debt in the last 12 months and forty-three percent of adults
12 living in the United States gave themselves a grade of C, D, or F
13 on their knowledge of personal finance; and

14 Whereas, Personal financial education and money management
15 skills are crucial to ensure that all Michiganders and especially
16 our young people are prepared to manage credit and debt and become
17 responsible workers, heads of households, homeowners, investors,
18 entrepreneurs, business leaders, and productive citizens; and

19 Whereas, Nearly 40% of adults in the United States cannot
20 cover an expense of \$400; and

21 Whereas, In the fourth quarter of 2020 outstanding household
22 debt in the United States reached \$14.56 trillion and the total
23 debt balance is \$414 billion higher than at the end of 2019; and

24 Whereas, Only 25 states require students to take an economics
25 course as a high school graduation requirement and only 21 states
26 require students to take a personal finance course as a high school
27 graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an
28 economics course; and

29 Whereas, In 2019 and before, this campaign conducted over 500

1 events and supported thousands of participants of all ages with
2 money management education in counties throughout the state; and

3 Whereas, According to the most recent FDIC Survey and Report
4 of Household Use of Banking and Financial Services, "Don't have
5 enough money to meet minimum balance requirements" was cited by 29%
6 of unbanked households as the main reason for not having an
7 account; and

8 Whereas, The young people of our state represent Michigan's
9 single greatest resource who, in the years ahead, will assume
10 leadership positions and responsibility for advancement of our
11 society; and

12 Whereas, Financial Literacy Month highlights the commitment of
13 Michigan financial institutions to strengthen the financial
14 knowledge of Michigan citizens to prepare them for a fiscally-
15 responsible future; now, therefore be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
17 this legislative body declare April 2021 as Financial Literacy
18 Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage raising public
19 awareness about the importance of personal financial education in
20 Michigan and the rest of the United States. This will help address
21 the serious problems that are associated with mismanagement of
22 personal finances; and be it further

23 Resolved, That we call on each parent, school, business,
24 financial institution, community organization, and unit of
25 government to observe the month with appropriate programs and
26 activities.