

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

Reps. Posthumus, Outman, Hoitenga, Beson, Fink, Roth and Damoose offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Michigan Department of Health and
2 Human Services to allow school districts the flexibility to exclude
3 immediate family members of participants in school athletic events
4 from venue capacity limits.

5 Whereas, The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
6 (MDHHS) has limited the number of spectators that may attend school
7 athletic events to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The limits
8 depend on the size of the venue and the type of seating available,
9 with density limits and hard caps on the number of spectators; and

10 Whereas, The current restrictions have created an undue
11 hardship on many families. The strict capacity restrictions have
12 created situations where there are limits on how many family

1 members of an athlete can attend an event. In families with younger
2 siblings needing supervision, if the entire family is not allowed
3 to attend, only one parent may be able to attend sporting events if
4 child care arrangements cannot be made or are not financially
5 feasible. In families with only one parent, an athlete may have no
6 family members to support them; and

7 Whereas, School districts cannot create fair attendance
8 policies for athletic events with the current strict limitations.
9 The capacity limits do not allow many districts to accommodate
10 every family's situation and ensure that every athlete can have a
11 family member in attendance to support them; and

12 Whereas, The support of family members at athletic events and
13 the ability of parents to attend their children's athletic events
14 are important. While well-intended, the MDHHS's current order fails
15 to account for every family situation and does not provide an
16 opportunity for school districts to fully meet the needs of
17 athletes and their families. The safety of spectators and athletes
18 should still be achievable while allowing for a more flexible
19 policy; now, therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
21 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to allow school
22 districts the flexibility to exclude immediate family members of
23 participants in school athletic events from venue capacity limits;
24 and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Governor of Michigan and the Director of the Michigan Department of
27 Health and Human Services.