

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.58

Reps. Hope, Kuppa and Stone offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare March 18, 2021, as Ban Child Marriage  
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
4 for Human Rights has classified child marriage as a human rights  
5 violation and defined it as any marriage where at least one of the  
6 parties is under 18 years of age; and

7       Whereas, The United Nations Children's Fund is working to end  
8 child marriage worldwide by 2030; and

9       Whereas, Michigan law currently allows 16- and 17-year-old  
10 children to marry with permission from a parent or guardian and  
11 children younger than 16 can marry with both parental and judicial  
12 approval; and

13       Whereas, Between 2000 and 2018, at least 5,259 children were

1 married in Michigan alone, some as young as 14. Of those, 83% of  
2 the marriages were between girls and adult men; and

3       Whereas, Young women and girls are often coerced into marrying  
4 their rapists or abusers as a way for the family to avoid criminal  
5 liability for neglect or assault and the stigma attached to rape,  
6 sexual abuse, or non-traditional pregnancy; and

7       Whereas, Michigan's lax child marriage laws are rife for  
8 abuse, offering cover for human traffickers and opening our state  
9 up to the risk of so-called marriage tourism, where non-residents  
10 come to Michigan for the purpose of marrying minors; and

11       Whereas, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota  
12 have all recently passed legislation to end all marriage before 18  
13 without exceptions; and

14       Whereas, Michigan does not have a residency requirement for  
15 marriage, so our state could become a destination for child  
16 marriages if the practice is not banned soon, and

17       Whereas, Research has shown that marriage has devastating  
18 health effects, social consequences, and economic results for a  
19 minor. Not only do most child marriages end in divorce, but married  
20 minors are more likely to live in poverty and be victims of  
21 domestic violence. Nearly half of all married minors end up  
22 dropping out of high school and married minors are four times less  
23 likely to finish college. There is also a higher risk of mental  
24 health problems and physical illnesses such as diabetes, cancer,  
25 and stroke; and

26       Whereas, House Bills 4226, 4227, and 4229 have been introduced  
27 into the Michigan House of Representatives to ban child marriage in  
28 Michigan; and

29       Whereas, March 18, 2021, takes place during the sixty-fifth UN

1 Commission on the Status of Women, which is the principal global  
2 intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of  
3 gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

4       Whereas, It is internationally recognized that the practice of  
5 child marriage is a human rights issue that harms the health of  
6 children and creates problems that persist for a lifetime; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
9 this legislative body declare March 18, 2021, as Ban Child Marriage  
10 Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

11       Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage  
12 all Michiganders to participate in the ongoing efforts to promote  
13 the protection of the rights, health, and overall well-being of all  
14 children and adolescents.