

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Rep. Kahle offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare May 2021 as Huntington's Disease  
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder that  
4 causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain,  
5 leading to the deterioration of an individual's physical and mental  
6 abilities; and

7       Whereas, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality  
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired judgment,  
9 unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech, swallowing  
10 difficulties and significant weight loss; and

11       Whereas, Symptoms usually first appear in individuals between  
12 30 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year period;

1 and

2       Whereas, The Huntington's Disease Society of America estimates  
3 that there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more  
4 than 200,000 are at risk of inheriting the faulty gene that causes  
5 the disease; and

6       Whereas, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential  
7 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's  
8 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene and developing  
9 the disease; and

10       Whereas, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected  
11 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually  
12 rendering the individual totally dependent upon others for his or  
13 her care; and

14       Whereas, While medications can alleviate some of the symptoms,  
15 no treatment is available to alter the course of Huntington's  
16 disease; and

17       Whereas, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of  
18 entire families emotionally, socially, and economically; and

19       Whereas, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may keep  
20 friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional support to  
21 the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

22       Whereas, Researchers identified the gene that causes  
23 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have continued to develop  
24 treatments in the hope of ultimately finding a cure; and

25       Whereas, The Huntington's Disease Society of America is  
26 dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals affected by  
27 Huntington's disease and has created a network of support through  
28 education, advocacy and outreach; and

29       Whereas, There is still a need for greater public awareness of

1 Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, state and  
2 local levels to support affected individuals as well as their  
3 families and caregivers; now, therefore, be it

4       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
5 this legislative body declare May 2021 as Huntington's Disease  
6 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.