

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.263

Rep. Morse offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness  
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the  
4 fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts women,  
5 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic  
6 backgrounds; and

7       Whereas, The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or  
8 behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim; and

9       Whereas, According to the National Sexual Violence Resource  
10 Center, one out of every five American women has been the victim of  
11 an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime and approximately  
12 2.6 percent of American men have experienced an attempted or

1 completed rape in their lifetime; and

2       Whereas, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to  
3 confront the reality. From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services  
4 agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that,  
5 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse and a majority  
6 of child victims are ages 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18, 34  
7 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are under age 12; and

8       Whereas, Michigan State Police statistics indicate that there  
9 were 6,823 incidents of rape that were reported to law enforcement  
10 in 2019; and

11       Whereas, Sexual violence can deeply and enduringly impact  
12 survivors on psychological, emotional, and social levels. Ninety-  
13 four percent of women who are raped experience posttraumatic stress  
14 disorder (PTSD) symptoms during the two weeks following the rape  
15 and approximately 70 percent of rape or sexual assault victims  
16 experience moderate to severe distress, a larger percentage than  
17 for any other violent crime studied in the National Crime  
18 Victimization Survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Access to  
19 informed and supportive services can greatly increase survivors'  
20 ability to heal from sexual assault; and

21       Whereas, Sexual violence is an intolerable violent crime with  
22 public health implications for every person in Michigan. Our state  
23 and individual communities must be committed to hold sexual assault  
24 perpetrators accountable for their heinous crimes; and

25       Whereas, When we actively increase education, awareness, and  
26 community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and  
27 create a safer environment for everyone. We must work together to  
28 educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent  
29 sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that survivors are

1 not re-victimized; now, therefore, be it

2       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
3 this legislative body declare April 2022 as Sexual Assault  
4 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the  
5 efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every  
6 citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent  
7 sexual violence and will take appropriate action and support one  
8 another to create a safer environment for all.