

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 269

Rep. Pohutsky offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 10, 2022, as Michigan Youth HIV
2 and AIDS Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, By end of December 2020, there were 17,348
4 Michiganders living with HIV, of which 522 had recently received an
5 HIV diagnosis; and

6 Whereas, By end of December 2020, roughly 1% of all
7 Michiganders living with HIV were youth 19 years old and under and
8 12% of all Michiganders living with HIV were people aged 20 to 29;
9 and

10 Whereas, We must combat HIV misinformation and stigmatization
11 surrounding a young person's HIV diagnosis, spread, and treatment;
12 and

1 Whereas, Michigan youth disproportionately face barriers to
2 HIV education, prevention, and treatment, with barriers including
3 insufficient knowledge, finances, health insurance, and
4 transportation; conflicting open hours of health care clinics
5 during school or work times; fear of or experienced stigma and
6 shame from medical providers and loved ones; and forced parental
7 consent mandates for HIV medications; and

8 Whereas, Effective HIV care, treatment, prevention methods,
9 and HIV medications such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and
10 Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP); and

11 Whereas, Young people are least likely to be aware of an HIV
12 infection, and least likely be to retained in HIV care and have a
13 suppressed viral load, thereby increasing the likelihood of spread
14 of HIV amongst youth; and

15 Whereas, Michigan youth cannot access prophylaxis (PrEP), a
16 daily pill which reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by 99%
17 when taken as prescribed, without parental consent; and

18 Whereas, Michigan youth deserve to learn medically accurate
19 information regarding medications that can be used to prevent the
20 spread of HIV; and

21 Whereas, Michigan youth deserve access to non-judgmental,
22 affirming, and affordable HIV education, care, treatment, and
23 prevention within their communities; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare April 10, 2022, as Michigan Youth HIV
26 and AIDS Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.