

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Senators Hertel, Geiss, Brinks, Ananich, Chang, McMorrow, Bayer, Bullock, McCann, Alexander, Polehanki, Moss, Irwin, Santana and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to observe May 3-7, 2021, as Teacher Appreciation
2 Week.

3 Whereas, Teachers have one of the most important roles in our
4 society, shaping Michigan's future through the education of our
5 youth; and

6 Whereas, Teachers are the foundation of our communities. As
7 students spend the majority of their time in school, they are in
8 the capable hands of educators who are also mentors, role models,
9 coaches, confidantes, and sources of encouragement and guidance;
10 and

1 Whereas, Teachers and administrators selflessly invest their
2 own extra time and money to ensure their students have the best
3 educational experience possible; and

4 Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic upended the professional lives
5 of educators. Teachers left their classrooms in a moment's notice
6 and learned to teach their students from home, continuing their
7 education without disruption, and as much sense of normalcy as
8 possible during an unprecedented health crisis; and

9 Whereas, It is particularly difficult to be a teacher in
10 Michigan. Stagnant school funding, low wages, and lack of support
11 and incentives contribute to Michigan's retention rate and teacher
12 shortage; and

13 Whereas, Approximately 20 percent of Michigan teachers leave
14 their school every year, several points higher than the national
15 average rate. In the 2018-2019 school year, more than 1 in 6
16 Michigan educators left their school or the profession entirely;
17 and

18 Whereas, A state audit recently found that many of the
19 policies in place to support new teachers are not adequately
20 enforced, due in part, to lack of staffing and funding; and

21 Whereas, These factors, exacerbated by the stress of the
22 pandemic, have taken a severe and overwhelming toll on Michigan
23 educators. Compared to the 2019-2020 school year, retirements are
24 up this year by 40 percent, a number that does not include teachers
25 who left the profession before qualifying for retirement; and

26 Whereas, Michigan must recognize its role in supporting the
27 future of the education profession. In order to ensure the quality
28 and stability of education for years to come, educators need the
29 support and incentive to remain in the classroom and reverse our

1 retainment trajectory; and

2 Whereas, Teachers deserve our support and appreciation every
3 week of every year for their dedication to Michigan's children and
4 our state's future, but especially for their efforts through the
5 COVID-19 pandemic; and

6 Whereas, Michigan educators deserve to know that the countless
7 hours they have invested into the education and well-being of our
8 students is not just recognized, but deeply and sincerely
9 appreciated; now, therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
11 body observe May 3-7, 2021 as Teacher Appreciation Week; and be it
12 further

13 Resolved, That we encourage every Michigan resident to express
14 their gratitude for educators.