

Rep. Slavens offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 101.

A resolution to declare May 2013 as Skin Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Malignant melanoma is a serious skin cancer characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing cells; and

Whereas, While melanoma can be caused by genetic factors or immune deficiencies, the most common cause is excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation particularly through multiple sunburns during childhood or exposure to tanning devices at a young age; and

Whereas, Melanoma is the most common form of cancer among people 25 to 29 years old and its incidence has doubled in the past two decades with over 120,000 new cases occurring each year. The American Cancer Society estimates that 75 percent of skin cancer deaths are due to melanoma with one death occurring in the United States every hour; and

Whereas, Melanoma is highly curable if detected early with a five-year survival rate of 98 percent when detected before spreading to the lymph nodes. However, if melanoma is detected in the regional stage or distant stage, the five-year survival rate falls to 62 percent and 16 percent, respectively; and

Whereas, The most effective method of detection is visual self-inspection for changes in the appearance of existing moles or blemishes. For individuals with increased risk factors, such as the existence of more than 50 moles or a past personal or family history of melanoma, a complete skin examination by a dermatologist is recommended at least annually; and

Whereas, The American Cancer Society and the American Academy of Dermatology have consistently promoted melanoma awareness through the encouragement of prevention, early detection, and annual screening for this potentially deadly disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 2013 as Skin Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We call on all citizens to observe this momentous occasion.