

Reps. Dillon, Lisa Brown, Barnett, Constan, Crawford, Geiss, Griffin, Horn, Robert Jones, Knollenberg, Kowall, LeBlanc, Liss, Marleau, Polidori, Proos, Rogers, Segal, Sheltroun, Slavens, Smith, Spade, Stanley and Valentine offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 282.

A resolution to declare May 11, 2010, as Chaldean American Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The state of Michigan is fortunate to have 121,000 citizens of Chaldean descent among its population, they have made, and continue to make, significant economic, social and political contributions to our diverse society; and

Whereas, Individuals of Chaldean origin are a culturally rich and complex community representing the Eastern-Rite Catholic, Aramaic speaking, indigenous people of Iraq; and

Whereas, The population of Chaldeans continues to grow in the state of Michigan with the recent arrival of Iraqi Chaldean refugees who have fled their ancestral lands and migrated to Michigan to seek economic, political and religious freedom; and

Whereas, An estimated 10,000 to 25,000 more Chaldean Iraqis will establish residency in the state of Michigan over the next two to three years; and

Whereas, A multitude of organizations, including the Chaldean Community Foundation through partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, helps to provide critical services to Iraqi Chaldean refugees, and is working to assist those refugees in assimilating and becoming contributing citizens of the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The Chaldean community has benefited the state of Michigan through its rich entrepreneurial spirit, as 61 percent of Chaldean households own at least one business and 39 percent own two or more; and,

Whereas, It is estimated that the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce represents more than 12,000 Chaldean-owned businesses in the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan is proud of its cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to honor and recognize its Chaldean American citizens for their commitment to leadership, dedication to society, and determination to succeed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 11, 2010, as Chaldean American Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all citizens to commemorate and honor the many accomplishments and contributions that the Chaldean American community has made to our state, nation, and world.