

Rep. LaFontaine offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 88.

A resolution to declare May 2011 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Michigan.

Whereas, As the summer season calls people to Michigan's outdoors to camp, hike, and otherwise enjoy the beauty of our lush green forests, it is an appropriate time to remind citizens of proper precautions and the safety rules of the woodlands. In recent years, Lyme disease has been a concern among outdoor enthusiasts. We urge Michigan residents to become aware of the signs and symptoms, prevention tactics, and treatment of Lyme disease; and

Whereas, An illness caused by the painless bite of a tiny deer tick, Lyme disease causes serious problems involving the heart, joints, and nervous systems in humans and animals. Prompt medical attention will minimize complications of this illness which initially may cause headaches, stiff muscles and joints, fever, nausea, and fatigue. Usually within a few days of being bitten by an infected tick, a person will develop a circular rash. However, detection of the disease is difficult because early symptoms vary and will disappear only to lead to serious problems later; and

Whereas, First recognized in children in 1975 in Lyme, Connecticut, this disease has been reported with increasing frequency throughout the United States. It is crucial that information relating to Lyme disease be available to the public and that the possible severity of its complications be understood by the citizens of Michigan. We salute the people of the Michigan Lyme Disease Association and the Michigan Department of Public Health for their efforts to expand our awareness and knowledge of the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 2011 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Michigan.