

Rep. Byrum offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 158.

A resolution to declare November 17, 2011, as Prematurity Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Prematurity has been increasing steadily and alarmingly over the past two decades; and

Whereas, One out of eight babies is born prematurely in the United States; and

Whereas, Every year, an estimated 13 million babies worldwide are born too soon and too small. More than a million of these tiny babies do not survive; and

Whereas, Half of all neurological disabilities in children are related to premature birth and premature babies face an increased risk of serious medical complications and death, including lasting disabilities such as cerebral palsy, intellectual and developmental disabilities, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing problems; and

Whereas, Although doctors have made marvelous advances in caring for babies born too soon and too small, we need to find out how to prevent preterm birth from happening in the first place; and

Whereas, Women who have had a previous preterm birth, who are pregnant with twins, triplets or more, or women with certain uterine or cervical abnormalities are more at risk for having premature births, but preterm labor and delivery can happen to any pregnant woman; and

Whereas, Organizations such as the March of Dimes have worked tirelessly to raise public awareness of the problems of prematurity and to decrease the rate of preterm birth in the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare November 17, 2011, as Prematurity Day in the state of Michigan.