

Rep. Barnett offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 292.

A resolution to declare June 25-29, 2012, as Service Disabled Veterans Business Awareness Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The state of Michigan honors the extraordinary service rendered to the United States by veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during active service with the armed forces; and

Whereas, The people of the state of Michigan recognize the unique challenges faced by military veterans, specifically those injured in the line of duty, and their families upon returning from active service to life as a civilian; and

Whereas, The people of the state of Michigan are committed to ensuring that the men and women of the United States armed forces have access to quality employment opportunities upon completing their service to our nation; and

Whereas, The US Census Bureau reports that Michigan is home to at least 110,000 service disabled veterans; and

Whereas, In 2011, the unemployment rate of 14.4% among Michigan veterans was far greater than the statewide unemployment rate; and

Whereas, The unemployment rate among service disabled veterans is estimated to be significantly higher; and

Whereas, In the United States there 3,670,318 veteran-owned businesses and a significant number of these businesses are owned by disabled service veterans; and

Whereas, Veteran-owned businesses are largely committed to hiring service disabled veterans; and

Whereas, In 2005, Governor Granholm signed PA 91 into law which establishes a goal of awarding 3% of all state contracts to service disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

Whereas, In 2008, PA 133 raised that goal to 5% of all state contracts; and

Whereas, To date, the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget has awarded less than 1% of contracts to service disabled veteran owned businesses; and

Whereas, It is incumbent upon this legislature to see that the state recommits itself to achieving the goals set forth in PA 91 of 2005 and PA 133 of 2008; and

Whereas, On June 26-June 29, 2012, the National Veterans Small Business Conference will be hosted in Detroit. This conference presents an excellent opportunity for representatives of the state to connect with service disabled business owners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare June 25-29, 2012, as Service Disabled Veterans Business Awareness Week in the state of Michigan.