

Senators Kahn, Richardville, Pavlov, Green, Moolenaar, Jansen, Marleau, Colbeck, Pappageorge and Proos offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 56.

A resolution commemorating Michigan Chaldean American Legislative Day.

Whereas, 120,000 Chaldeans reside in the state of Michigan, the largest such population outside of the Middle East; and

Whereas, Chaldeans, who are Iraq's indigenous people and are Aramaic-speaking Eastern Rite Catholics, have contributed to the great state of Michigan since migrating to America; and

Whereas, 61 percent of Chaldean households own at least one business and 39 percent own two or more. The Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce represents more than 12,000 estimated Chaldean-owned businesses in the state of Michigan. With the recent influx of Iraqi Chaldean refugees who have fled their ancestral lands and migrated to Michigan to seek economic, political, and religious freedom, the population of Chaldeans continues to grow in the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, It is estimated that between 10,000 and 25,000 more Iraqi Chaldeans will resettle in Michigan in years to come; and

Whereas, The Chaldean Community Foundation, through the assistance of the Michigan Department of Community Health, helps provide services to the newly-arrived Iraqi Chaldean refugees and others and is working to help the refugees assimilate and become contributing citizens to the state of Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we join with the entire state in acknowledging the contributions of Chaldean Americans, as this entrepreneurial community is an important part of Michigan's diverse history; and be it further

Resolved, That we hereby commemorate Michigan Chaldean American Legislative Day on May 26, 2011; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce as evidence of the highest esteem of the members of the Michigan Legislature.