Rep. Berman offered the following resolution:

A resolution discouraging local units of government from defunding or abolishing their local police departments.

Whereas, Recent incidents of injuries to and deaths of civilians in encounters with law enforcement officers have justifiably drawn attention to the organization and funding of police departments. Some advocates for change are going beyond calls for reforms, however, by demanding that local police departments be defunded or abolished; and

Whereas, Law enforcement is a necessary and vital function of our government at all levels. Police departments enforce the laws enacted by the Legislature to ensure public safety, protect the health and possessions of our citizens, and to prevent crime and civil disorder; and

Whereas, Michigan law enforcement officers are highly-trained
and courageous individuals working in dangerous situations to
protect the residents of Michigan; and

Whereas, The egregious misconduct and bias of some law
enforcement officers demonstrates the need for reform, but efforts
to defund or abolish local police departments gives credence to the
incorrect notion that law enforcement generally is harmful to local
communities, rather than a cornerstone of a safe and prosperous
society; and

Whereas, Defunding or abolishing local police departments will
burden remaining departments that may be called upon to provide
assistance within municipalities that no longer have the resources
to respond to emergency calls. Lack of policing resources will put
citizens at risk, creating chaos and disorder; and

Whereas, The absence of law enforcement personnel in our
cities and rural areas could affect the state's economy,
discouraging businesses from locating here and out-of-state
residents from visiting. An increase in crime would affect every
Michigan resident's quality of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we discourage
local units of government from defunding or abolishing their local
police departments; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Municipal League, the
Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of
Mayors, and the Michigan Association of Township Supervisors.