

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.268

Reps. Hope, Aiyash, Brabec, Breen, Haadsma, Hood, Kuppa, Morse, Rogers, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Thanedar, Weiss and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 16, 2022, as Healthcare
2 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16, 2022,
4 and is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead
5 for healthcare decisions related to end-of-life care and medical
6 decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for
7 themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives
8 to communicate these important healthcare decisions; and

9 Whereas, It is estimated that only about 20 percent of people
10 in Michigan have executed an advance directive, in part due to a
11 lack of knowledge about advance directives and considerable public

1 confusion arising from advance directives that are often written in
2 difficult to understand legal and medical terms; and

3
4 Whereas, Easy-to-understand advance directives that are
5 written in plain language, such as those provided by Five Wishes
6 and distributed by the non-profit organization Aging with Dignity,
7 are desirable because they enable completion and foster important
8 family discussions; and

9 Whereas, Because Five Wishes is available in 30 languages,
10 citizens of our ethnic and culturally diverse state can state their
11 wishes about comfort, dignity, and the personal, family, and
12 spiritual issues that matter most; and

13 Whereas, Michigan citizens can complete an advanced directive
14 and submit it to the statewide registry called Peace of Mind; and

15 Whereas, One of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions
16 Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living
17 facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to
18 participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent
19 information to the public about advance directives and increase the
20 number of Michigan residents with advance directives; and

21 Whereas, Many of the Michigan healthcare, business, faith-
22 based groups, and senior services organizations have demonstrated
23 commendable leadership in furthering patient and caregiver-focused
24 advance care planning, and are committed to educating the public
25 about the importance of discussing healthcare choices and
26 completing advance directives; and

27 Whereas, As a result of April 16, 2022, being recognized as
28 Healthcare Decisions Day throughout Michigan, more citizens will
29 have conversations about their healthcare decisions; more citizens

1 will execute advance directives to make their wishes known; and
2 fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with
3 making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance
4 from the patient; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
6 this legislative body declare April 16, 2022, as Healthcare
7 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan. We call this observance to
8 the attention of all citizens.