

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.275

Reps. VanWoerkom, Breen, Green, Kahle and Marino offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 24-30, 2022, as Crime Victims'
2 Rights Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, With the implementation of the Crime Victim's Rights
4 Act in 1985 and the passage of a constitutional amendment in 1988,
5 the state of Michigan has adopted some of the nation's most
6 comprehensive laws to protect the rights of crime victims; and

7 Whereas, Crime victims possess the right to be treated with
8 fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy throughout the
9 criminal justice process; and

10 Whereas, Though Michigan continues to make strides in reducing
11 the crime rate, there are still far too many victims of crime.

1 Research going back 40 years indicates that less than half of
2 violent crimes and less than 40 percent of property crimes are
3 reported. The most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual
4 Violence Survey results have estimated that today in Michigan,
5 there are over 1,700,000 survivors of sexual violence; and

6 Whereas, In the six years from 2011-2016, over 2.6 million
7 people reported being the victim of a crime in Michigan. If it is
8 accurate that less than half of crimes are reported, then Michigan
9 residents have actually been the victims of far more than 5 million
10 crimes in those 6 years; and

11 Whereas, The national theme for 2022 is "Rights, access,
12 equity, for all victims." Victims need to be believed and services
13 must be available to assist them in their journey from being a
14 victim to becoming a survivor. Let us focus on the importance of
15 early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with
16 victims, which, in turn, begins to restore their hope for healing
17 and recovery; and

18 Whereas, In response to the courageous stands and victim
19 impact statements of victims of sexual assault, the Michigan
20 Legislature is working diligently to create a policy and real life
21 environment for victims that is safe, supportive, and effective;
22 and

23 Whereas, Intervening early with services that support and
24 empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and
25 abuse; and

26 Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportune
27 time to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime are offered
28 accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; now
29 therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
2 this legislative body declare April 24-30, 2022, as Crime Victims'
3 Rights Week in the state of Michigan. We affirm this state's
4 commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and addressing
5 their needs.