

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.278

Reps. Young, Pohutsky, Rendon, Whiteford, Kahle, Tyrone Carter, Anthony, Brenda Carter, Green, O'Malley, Aiyash, Neeley, Camilleri, Morse, Scott, Puri, Manoogian, Rabhi, LaGrand, Stone, Kuppa, Bolden, Wakeman, Weiss, Koleszar, Sabo, Hertel, O'Neal, Rogers, Hope, Thanedar, Steenland, Jones, Liberati, Garza, Brixie, Haadsma, Brabec, Clemente, Ellison, Cavanagh, Lasinski, Breen, Hood, Sowerby and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 2022 as Foster Care Awareness
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Recognizing National Foster Care Awareness Month is
4 an opportunity to shine a light on the challenges children in the
5 foster care system face and encouraging the Legislature to
6 implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster

1 care system; and

2 Whereas, It is also a time to acknowledge foster parents,
3 family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, and child
4 welfare professionals who help children and youth in foster care
5 find permanent homes and connections. We use this time to renew our
6 commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 426,000
7 children and youth in foster care and we celebrate those who make a
8 meaningful difference in their lives; and

9 Whereas, Children in foster care who are placed with
10 relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more
11 stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more
12 positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be
13 placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral
14 problems; and

15 Whereas, An increased emphasis on prevention and reunification
16 services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are
17 forced to remain in the foster care system; and

18 Whereas, More than 20,000 youth "age out" of foster care every
19 year without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family,
20 according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and

21 Whereas, Children who age out of foster care lack the security
22 and support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently
23 struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance,
24 pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment; and

25 Whereas, Studies show that before the pandemic, with no parent
26 to turn to, 20 percent of foster care youth become homeless the day
27 they age out of foster care, which is sadly on their 18th birthday;
28 and

29 Whereas, Children entering foster care often confront the

1 widespread misperception that children in foster care are
2 disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster
3 care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the
4 child; and

5 Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Health and
6 Human Services, children in foster care may be at greater risk for
7 mental health problems; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
9 this legislative body declare May 2022 as Foster Care Awareness
10 Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage more citizens to
11 volunteer their time to become mentors to children in foster care
12 and we realize that the state of Michigan must do more to support
13 these children and prepare them to live healthy and productive
14 lives.