

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Reps. Kahle, Aiyash, Bollin, Breen, Brixie, Cherry, Ellison, Garza, Haadsma, Hood, Hope, Jones, Lasinski, Rogers, Shannon, Sneller, Weiss, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare May 2021 as Huntington's Disease  
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder that  
4 causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain,  
5 leading to the deterioration of an individual's physical and mental  
6 abilities; and

7       Whereas, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality  
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired judgment,  
9 unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech, swallowing  
10 difficulties and significant weight loss; and

1       Whereas, Symptoms usually first appear in individuals between  
2 30 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year period;  
3 and

4       Whereas, The Huntington's Disease Society of America estimates  
5 that there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more  
6 than 200,000 are at risk of inheriting the faulty gene that causes  
7 the disease; and

8       Whereas, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential  
9 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's  
10 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene and developing  
11 the disease; and

12       Whereas, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected  
13 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually  
14 rendering the individual totally dependent upon others for his or  
15 her care; and

16       Whereas, While medications can alleviate some of the symptoms,  
17 no treatment is available to alter the course of Huntington's  
18 disease; and

19       Whereas, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of  
20 entire families emotionally, socially, and economically; and

21       Whereas, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may keep  
22 friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional support to  
23 the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

24       Whereas, Researchers identified the gene that causes  
25 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have continued to develop  
26 treatments in the hope of ultimately finding a cure; and

27       Whereas, The Huntington's Disease Society of America is  
28 dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals affected by  
29 Huntington's disease and has created a network of support through

1 education, advocacy and outreach; and

2       Whereas, There is still a need for greater public awareness of  
3 Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, state and  
4 local levels to support affected individuals as well as their  
5 families and caregivers; now, therefore, be it

6       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
7 this legislative body declare May 2021 as Huntington's Disease  
8 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.