

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.275

Rep. VanWoerkom 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.

12 Research going back 40 years indicates that less than half of

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of

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