

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.294

Rep. Koleszar offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 2024 as Deaf Awareness Month
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, As the deaf population includes a wide range of
4 individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use
5 American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication to
6 those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other
7 forms of amplification and communication modes; and

8 Whereas, According to the Michigan Division on Deaf,
9 Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing, at least 7.4 percent of the
10 Michigan population identify as deaf, deafblind, or hard of
11 hearing; and

12 Whereas, Our state benefits from the many contributions of

1 deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing residents throughout the
2 state; and

3 Whereas, All of Michigan is enriched by the diverse and unique
4 heritage, language, and culture of the deaf community; and

5 Whereas, People who identify themselves as deaf belong to a
6 cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social
7 norms, rules of behavior, and history; and

8 Whereas, It is important to ensure that Michigan's deaf,
9 deafblind, or hard of hearing individuals have equal access to the
10 many benefits and opportunities available to hearing individuals to
11 live, work, play, and communicate in Michigan; and

12 Whereas, To commemorate the first congress of the World
13 Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951, our
14 state recognizes the entire month of September as Deaf Awareness
15 Month; and

16 Whereas, The purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase
17 public awareness of the issues and the culture of people who are
18 deaf, as well as to promote equal access to information and
19 services for deaf individuals, to educate the public about the
20 misconceptions of being deaf, and to learn about the types of
21 educational programs, support services, and resources available to
22 people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; now, therefore,
23 be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare September 2024 as Deaf Awareness
26 Month in the state of Michigan.

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