

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 165

Rep. Meerman offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 2025 as Fetal Alcohol
2 Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month and September 9, 2025, as FASD
3 Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

4 Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a group
5 of lifelong, brain- and body-based developmental disabilities
6 resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure, affecting behavior,
7 learning, and health across the lifespan; and

8 Whereas, FASD is a lifelong developmental disability that
9 requires coordinated, neurodiversity-affirming support in schools,
10 health care, behavioral health, employment, housing, and the
11 justice system; and

12 Whereas, National research indicates that up to 1 in 20 U.S.
13 school-aged children may have an FASD, underscoring the magnitude

1 of this public-health issue and the need for early identification
2 and appropriate supports; and

3 Whereas, Organizations in Michigan have taken steps to address
4 FASD - including the Children's FASD System of Care operating
5 within community mental health systems in Genesee, Macomb,
6 Muskegon, Oakland, and Ottawa counties, and providing statewide
7 training efforts reaching child-welfare, substance-use, juvenile-
8 justice, education, medical, and community partners; and

9 Whereas, People across Michigan and the United States observe
10 FASD Awareness Month each September and FASD Awareness Day on
11 September 9 (the ninth day of the ninth month, symbolizing a
12 healthy, alcohol-free nine-month pregnancy), an observance
13 recognized in Michigan in previous years; and

14 Whereas, Michigan families affected by FASD frequently
15 encounter fragmented services, under-diagnosis, and misdiagnosis,
16 resulting in preventable school disruptions, family stress, and
17 costly crisis responses; and

18 Whereas, National studies show substantial under-
19 identification of FASD in schools and clinics; and

20 Whereas, Children with FASD are disproportionately represented
21 in child-welfare and foster-care settings nationwide. This is
22 reflected by a recent scoping review estimating about 18.8% of
23 children in foster care have an FASD, and other U.S. research in
24 child-welfare population reported 25-28% with FASD, however,
25 Michigan's administrative datasets (e.g., AFCARS/NCANDS) do not
26 currently report statewide counts of children with FASD; and

27 Whereas, The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
28 provides public education on FASD and emphasizes that FASD is 100%

1 preventable if alcohol is not consumed during pregnancy; and

2 Whereas, Public awareness campaigns-especially during
3 September-that clearly communicate there is no known safe amount of
4 alcohol during pregnancy and that emphasis on compassionate,
5 family-centered support help inform citizens about FASD; and

6 Whereas, Prevention, early screening, and appropriate
7 accommodations markedly improve outcomes; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That members of the
9 legislative body declare September 2025 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
10 Disorders Awareness Month and September 9, 2025, as FASD Awareness
11 Day in the state of Michigan; and, be it further

12 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
13 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan
14 Department of Education, the State Court Administrative Office, and
15 the Michigan FASD Task Force.