

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272**

1 A resolution to commemorate June 11, 2020, as the celebration
2 of the 75th anniversary of the Michigan Association for Justice and
3 express appreciation for the organization's contributions to
4 promoting and protecting a fair and effective justice system in
5 Michigan and safeguarding the 7th Amendment of the United States
6 Constitution.

7 Whereas, It is an honor for the members of the Michigan
8 Legislature to join in saluting the Michigan Association for
9 Justice (MAJ) as it marks 75 years of service in jurisprudence.
10 This renowned group was formed in 1945 with approximately twenty
11 lawyers who were specialists in workers' compensation. Mr. Sam
12 Charfoos served as the first president of the organization which is



1 dedicated to ensuring access to the civil justice system and
2 defending our cherished right to a civil trial by jury; and

3 Whereas, The 7th Amendment to the United States Constitution
4 grants every American the right to a civil trial by jury. Over the
5 years, members of MAJ have fought courageously to protect the
6 rights of consumers, workers, children, and families from powerful
7 forces aligned against them. Trial lawyers are champions for
8 vulnerable people who would otherwise have no voice; and

9 Whereas, The Constitution of Michigan of 1963, Article 1,
10 Section 14, states that "The right of [civil] trial by jury shall
11 remain." We applaud the efforts of MAJ members to keep the justice
12 system fair and open. Through effective efforts on behalf of
13 innocent victims, civil rights, and equal rights, many people have
14 gained access to justice, and many others have been protected by
15 the precedents that certain of these cases have set. The
16 accomplishments of the Michigan Association for Justice in
17 fulfilling its mission of promoting and protecting a fair and
18 effective justice system and ensuring that any person who is
19 injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain
20 justice in Michigan's courtrooms stand as a bulwark against
21 unfairness, inequity, and injustice. Its 75 years of vigilance and
22 attainment gives great significance to this notable milestone in
23 MAJ history; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the members of
25 this legislative body commemorate June 11, 2020, as the celebration
26 of the 75th anniversary of the Michigan Association for Justice and
27 express appreciation for the organization's contributions to
28 promoting and protecting a fair and effective justice system in
29 Michigan and safeguarding the 7th amendment of the United States

1 Constitution; and be if further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to MAJ
3 President Robert J. MacDonald, MAJ President-Elect Donna M.
4 MacKenzie, MAJ Vice President Ronald K. Weiner, Executive Director
5 Stephen V. Pontoni, and the membership and staff of this admirable
6 organization as evidence of the Michigan Legislature's lasting
7 respect and admiration.