

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67**

1 A resolution to declare March 26, 2021, as Epilepsy Awareness
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Epilepsy Awareness Day is a nationwide effort of the
4 Epilepsy Foundation to raise awareness about, and change the
5 conversation around the epilepsies, seizures, and side effects, as
6 well as to improve and save lives through care, advocacy, research,
7 new therapies, and education; and

8 Whereas, Epilepsy is a brain disorder characterized by
9 recurrent and unprovoked seizures that can affect anyone, at any
10 age, any time; and

11 Whereas, Epilepsy is a spectrum disease comprised of many
12 diagnoses and experiences and includes a wide range of seizure

1 types, comorbidities, control, severity, and outcomes varying from
2 person-to-person; and

3 Whereas, Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological
4 disorder. Approximately 3.4 million people in the U.S. including
5 108,900 in Michigan live with active epilepsy; and

6 Whereas, An increasing number of people are diagnosed with
7 rare epilepsies which are largely complex, severe, chronic, and
8 even life-threatening, and collectively rare epilepsies account for
9 a growing percentage of the epilepsy population; and

10 Whereas, Many treatments are approved to treat seizures, 30 -
11 40% of people with epilepsy still live with uncontrolled seizures
12 and the epilepsy-related medical costs associated with uncontrolled
13 epilepsy are 2 to 10 times higher than those of controlled
14 epilepsy; and

15 Whereas, Annual epilepsy-specific healthcare costs can be up
16 to \$19,749 per person and 21% of people with epilepsy have reported
17 not being able to afford their prescription medication(s) in the
18 last year; and

19 Whereas, People with epilepsy need access to affordable,
20 comprehensive, physician-directed, and person-centered healthcare;
21 and

22 Whereas, 470,000 children live with epilepsy in the U.S. and
23 students with epilepsy aged 6 - 17 years old have missed 11 or more
24 days of school the past year on average, greater education and
25 improved access to care is needed in schools; and

26 Whereas, Protections exist in the Americans with Disabilities
27 Act and related civil rights laws, people with epilepsy still
28 encounter discrimination in areas including employment, education,
29 and housing; and

1 Whereas, Epilepsy can affect anyone with a brain, and anyone
2 with a brain can affect epilepsy; and

3 Whereas, Through action together on Epilepsy Awareness Day and
4 during other awareness initiatives, including International
5 Epilepsy Day, National Epilepsy Awareness Month, Brain Awareness
6 Week, and any day of the year, we must increase public knowledge
7 about the epilepsies and seizure first aid and change the way
8 people think about the epilepsies and seizures; now, therefore, be
9 it

10 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
11 this legislative body declare March 26, 2021, as Epilepsy Awareness
12 Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage residents to take action
13 together and use our brains to overcome the challenges of living
14 with epilepsy and accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find
15 cures, and save lives.