

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

Reps. Cynthia Johnson and Rabhi offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge Congress to pass legislation that  
2 prohibits water shutoffs, requires reconnection, and ensures water  
3 affordability during the COVID-19 national emergency.

4           Whereas, Millions of Americans lack running water in their  
5 homes due to service shutoffs driven by exorbitant rates and  
6 unaffordable bills. While water shutoffs are prevalent in all 50  
7 states, shutoffs disproportionately impact cities with higher rates  
8 of poverty, unemployment, and people of color; and

9           Whereas, Access to running water is essential to maintain  
10 proper hygiene and to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19.  
11 Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid  
12 getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs; and

1           Whereas, Although many municipalities and states, including  
2 Michigan, have issued moratoriums on water shutoffs for nonpayment  
3 during the COVID-19 crisis, we must ensure a comprehensive federal  
4 response that protects all households; and

5           Whereas, The Emergency Water is a Human Right Act (H.R. 616)  
6 has been introduced in Congress to prohibit water shutoffs to all  
7 households during the COVID-19 emergency period. If passed, it  
8 would ensure water affordability protections for households with  
9 incomes up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level by providing  
10 grants to states so that they may provide drinking water and  
11 wastewater assistance to low-income households; and

12           Whereas, No person living in the United States should be  
13 forced to live without access to running water, especially during a  
14 pandemic. Every effort should be made at all levels of government  
15 to ensure people are able to protect themselves from COVID-19; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge  
18 Congress to pass legislation that prohibits water shutoffs,  
19 requires reconnection, and ensures water affordability during the  
20 COVID-19 national emergency; and be it further

21           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
22 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
23 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
24 congressional delegation.