

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67

Rep. O'Malley offered the following resolution:

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
13 types, comorbidities, control, severity, and outcomes varying from

1 person-to-person; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 Whereas, 470,000 children live with epilepsy in the U.S. and
22 students with epilepsy aged 6 - 17 years old have missed 11 or more
23 days of school the past year on average, greater education and
24 improved access to care is needed in schools which can be
25 accomplished by passing Seizure Safe Schools legislation
26 nationwide; and

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

1 and housing; and

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

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

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