

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 138

Rep. Breen offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare July 2021 as Cleft and Craniofacial
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Cleft lip and cleft palate are birth defects that
4 occur when a baby's lip or mouth do not form properly before birth.
5 Together, these birth defects commonly are called "orofacial
6 clefts" or "oral clefts" (OFCs). Affecting 1-2 per 1,000 newborns,
7 together they are among the more common birth defects and the most
8 common affecting the face; and

9 Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
10 recently estimated that 2,651 babies in the United States are born
11 with a cleft palate and 4,437 babies are born with a cleft lip
12 (with or without a cleft palate) each year; and

1 Whereas, In Michigan, from 1992 to 2010, the incidence of OFC
2 was about 1 in 637 live births (15.7 cases per 10,000 live births)
3 with an average number of 75 cases of cleft palate and 130 cases of
4 cleft lip (with or without cleft palate) each year; and

5 Whereas, These birth defects happen early during pregnancy, by
6 5 to 6 weeks after conception for cleft lip and by about 10 weeks
7 after conception for cleft palate. A baby can have a cleft lip, a
8 cleft palate, or both. A cleft may affect one side of the lip
9 and/or palate (unilateral) or both sides (bilateral) and may
10 disrupt the formation of the nose and/or extend into the gum or
11 upper jawbone; and

12 Whereas, Without proper medical intervention, the quality of
13 life of these newborn children are negatively impacted. Children
14 with orofacial clefts often have problems with feeding and talking.
15 They might also have ear infections, hearing loss, and problems
16 with their teeth. These children usually require one or more
17 surgeries early in life, as well as special feeding techniques,
18 orthodontic care and/or speech therapy. Severity varies with the
19 degree of clefting and with the presence of other birth defects; in
20 extreme cases, death may result; and

21 Whereas, Children who can have their orofacial clefts treated
22 are better positioned to live healthy and productive lives in the
23 same manner as children who are not born with clefts; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
26 this legislative body declare July 2021 as Cleft and Craniofacial
27 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We bring awareness and
28 recognition to these birth defects and those who live with them.