

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

Rep. Koleszar offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare September 2021 as Deaf Awareness Month  
2 in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, As the deaf population includes a wide range of  
4 individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use  
5 American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication to  
6 those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other  
7 forms of amplification and communication modes; and

8           Whereas, According to the Michigan Division on Deaf, DeafBlind  
9 and Hard of Hearing, at least 7.4 percent of the Michigan  
10 population identify as deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; and

11           Whereas, Our state benefits from the many contributions of  
12 deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing residents throughout the  
13 state; and

1           Whereas, All of Michigan is enriched by the diverse and unique  
2 heritage, language, and culture of the deaf community; and

3           Whereas, People who identify themselves as deaf belong to a  
4 cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social  
5 norms, rules of behavior, and history; and

6           Whereas, It is important to ensure that Michigan's deaf,  
7 deafblind, or hard of hearing individuals have equal access to the  
8 many benefits and opportunities available to hearing individuals to  
9 live, work, play, and communicate in Michigan; and

10           Whereas, To commemorate the first congress of the World  
11 Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951, our  
12 state recognizes the entire month of September as Deaf Awareness  
13 Month; and

14           Whereas, The purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase  
15 public awareness of the issues and the culture of people who are  
16 deaf, as well as to promote equal access to information and  
17 services for deaf individuals, to educate the public about the  
18 misconceptions of being deaf, and to learn about the types of  
19 educational programs, support services, and resources available to  
20 people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; now, therefore,  
21 be it

22           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
23 this legislative body declare September 2021 as Deaf Awareness  
24 Month in the state of Michigan.