

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 58

Reps. Zorn, Fink, Alexander, Bezotte, Haadsma, Martin, Schuette and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 21, 2023, as Abolitionist Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The abolitionist movement was born in the early 18th
4 century in order to end the practice of slavery in America and
5 around the world; and

6 Whereas, Laura Smith Haviland was a trailblazer in the
7 American abolitionist movement, fought against injustice, and
8 promoted freedom everywhere she went, including her home that is
9 now known as Adrian, Michigan; and

10 Whereas, Smith Haviland and her family moved to Michigan
11 during her young adult life where she would meet others already
12 involved in the anti-slavery movement. She soon after lost her

1 parents, husband, and child to erysipelas. This kindled her desire
2 to devote her life to fighting against the suffering and despair of
3 others and from there she turned her energy to the eradication of
4 slavery.

5 Whereas, The abolitionist movement was made up of many people
6 like Laura Smith Haviland who also dedicated their lives to
7 irradicating injustice, assisting members of the underground
8 railroad, and traveled to many states in pursuit of these missions;
9 and

10 Whereas, Laura Smith Haviland was inducted into the 2018 Hall
11 of Fame class at the National Abolition Hall of Fame in Peterboro,
12 NY for her integral role in the anti-slavery movement in Michigan
13 and the midwestern United States as a whole. She taught others how
14 to confront and obstruct anti-abolition authorities and slave
15 catchers in the north. Laura Smith Haviland is responsible for
16 freeing and assisting in freeing countless enslaved people during
17 her time; and

18 Whereas, Laura Smith Haviland continued her work to ensure
19 freedom and dignity was afforded to as many people as possible
20 throughout her entire life, regardless of the dangers she
21 inevitably faced everywhere she went. She possessed a selfless
22 attitude, an undying fortitude for justice and bravery; and

23 Whereas, We recognize the integral role the abolitionist
24 movement made in our nation's history, and moving us closer to true
25 equality of life for all Americans; now, therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
27 this legislative body declare March 14, 2023, as Abolitionist Day
28 in the state of Michigan.