

Rep. Switalski offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 247.

A resolution to declare April 30-May 6, 2012, as Screen-Free Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Screen-Free Week is an enjoyable and innovative way to improve children's well-being by reducing dependence on entertainment screen media including television, video games, computers, and hand-held devices, thus offering time for children to go outside, read, daydream, create, explore, and spend more time with family and friends; and

Whereas, Preschool children spend an average of 32 hours a week with screen media; and

Whereas, School-age children exposed to excessive screen time may also suffer the effects of childhood obesity, sleep disturbances, attention span issues, increased psychological difficulties, negative attitudes toward school, long-term academic failure, poor homework completion, less healthy dietary habits, less physical activity, and fewer family meals; and

Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under 2 and less than 2 hours per day for older children; and

Whereas, Increased screen time for toddlers leaves less time for engagement in creative play, establishing the foundation of learning, constructive problem solving, and creativity; and

Whereas, Research demonstrates the benefits of reduced screen time for children, such as a higher academic performance, healthier lifestyle, prevention for later behavioral problems, and a decreased interest in television in later years; and

Whereas, Screen-Free Week establishes the foundation for important lifestyle adjustments that will develop the well-being and quality of life in children all year round; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 30-May 6, 2012, as Screen-Free Week in the state of Michigan.