

Reps. Kesto, Barnett, Brown, Crawford, Faris, Geiss, Hovey-Wright, Howrylak, Lamonte, Price and Slavens offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 415.

A resolution urging Michigan professional sports teams to adopt a zero-tolerance domestic violence policy.

Whereas, Acts of domestic violence occur at alarming levels with traumatic, and at times deadly results. Perpetrators can and should face criminal penalties for their abusive behavior; and

Whereas, Recent media reports reveal a deep and pervasive problem with violent behavior by professional athletes. This matter is of great concern because it is often dealt with in a cavalier paternalistic manner by the owners of many teams as well as sports leagues. Unfortunately, at a high level within these organizations, decisions are made that allow athletes who have committed acts of domestic violence to continue to participate in the sport with little to no consequence; and

Whereas, It is essential that a zero tolerance for domestic violence be adopted by professional sports owners. Such a policy would send a clear message to professional athletes that there is an expected standard of conduct that extends beyond the field or the court. It would also communicate that the consequences they face will be beyond criminal investigations. By adopting a zero-tolerance domestic violence policy, Michigan's sports teams will send a strong message that violent behavior will not be tolerated; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge Michigan's professional sports teams to adopt a zero-tolerance domestic violence policy; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the owners of each of Michigan's professional sports teams.