

Rep. LaSata offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 150.

A resolution to declare September 17-23, 2017, as Independent Colleges and Universities Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan is home to 25 independent colleges and universities serving over 120,000 students; and

Whereas, While Michigan's student population has declined overall, enrollment at Michigan's independent colleges and universities has increased by 30 percent in the last 16 years; and

Whereas, Michigan's independent colleges and universities experienced a 21 percent growth in United States military veteran undergraduate enrollment from 2014-15 and a 33 percent enrollment increase for United States military veterans in graduate programs. Thirty-nine percent of United States military veterans pursuing an undergraduate degree in Michigan do so at a Michigan independent college or university; and

Whereas, One of the most important factors in collegiate student success is affordability. Eighty-one percent of students attending a Michigan independent college or university receive some form of financial aid via an institutional scholarship or grant, with the amount of scholarships and grants provided directly by institutions increasing by over \$246 million between 2005 and 2015—a 99 percent increase in 10 years; and

Whereas, Improved access to quality higher education is important for low-income students, women, minorities, and veterans; and

Whereas, Half of undergraduate students at Michigan's independent colleges and universities receive need-based Pell grants; and

Whereas, 20,293 diplomas were earned in 2015 by students at independent colleges and universities in Michigan. Over 80 percent of graduates from Michigan independent colleges and universities choose to live and work in the state after graduation; and

Whereas, Smaller colleges and universities – like many Michigan independent colleges and universities– are able to provide individualized support, both in the classroom and within the administration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare September 17-23, 2017, as Independent Colleges and Universities Week in the state of Michigan.