

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 159

Reps. Koleszar, Breen, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Longjohn, MacDonell, Miller, Paiz, Rheingans, Rigas, Weiss, Witwer, Wooden and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 2025 as Deaf Awareness Month
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing population
4 in Michigan encompasses a diverse group of individuals with a wide
5 range of communication preferences and abilities—from those who are
6 profoundly deaf and use American Sign Language (ASL) as their
7 primary language, to those with varying degrees of hearing loss who
8 use amplification devices, lip reading, cued speech, or other
9 communication modes; and

10 Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Labor and
11 Economic Opportunity's Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of
12 Hearing, approximately 7.4 percent of Michigan's population

1 identifies as deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, representing a
2 significant and valued portion of our state's residents (LEO-
3 DODDBHH, 2024 Annual Report); and

4 Whereas, The state of Michigan benefits immensely from the
5 contributions of deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals
6 in fields such as education, public service, healthcare, business,
7 the arts, and civic engagement; and

8 Whereas, The rich cultural and linguistic heritage of the deaf
9 community, including the use of ASL and shared social norms,
10 traditions, and history, enriches Michigan's broader cultural
11 landscape; and

12 Whereas, Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing face
13 unique barriers and disparities in access to communication,
14 employment, education, and public services, and it is incumbent
15 upon society to foster inclusivity, ensure accessibility, and
16 uphold the civil rights of all Michiganders, regardless of hearing
17 status; and

18 Whereas, The month of September commemorates the first World
19 Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, held in September
20 1951, a pivotal moment in the global movement for deaf rights and
21 awareness; and

22 Whereas, Deaf Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise
23 public awareness of the challenges faced by the deaf community,
24 dispel misconceptions about deafness, and promote equal access to
25 information, services, and opportunities for individuals who are
26 deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; now, therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
28 this legislative body declare September 2025 as Deaf Awareness
29 Month in the state of Michigan.