

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 159

Rep. Koleszar 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  
13 identifies as deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, representing a  
14 significant and valued portion of our state's residents (LEO-

1 DODDBHH, 2024 Annual Report); and

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

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

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

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

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

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