

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

Reps. Outman, Cavitt, Markkanen, Fairbairn and Wortz offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 2025 as Big Brothers Big
2 Sisters Youth Mentoring Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Big Brothers Big Sisters is a nationally recognized
4 nonprofit organization that was formed in 1904 with a vision to
5 help all youth achieve their full potential through the power of
6 one-on-one mentoring relationships with dedicated local volunteers;
7 and

8 Whereas, Michigan has long played a significant role in the
9 history and growth of Big Brothers Big Sisters. In 1917, the city
10 of Grand Rapids hosted the organization's first national
11 conference. Today, Michigan is home to eleven local agencies
12 serving communities across the state; and

1 Whereas, The need for caring and consistent mentors continues
2 to grow across Michigan, with thousands of children waiting to be
3 matched with a trusted adult. Strong mentoring relationships can
4 help young people build resilience, confidence, and purpose, which
5 strengthens families and communities socially, academically, and
6 economically; and

7 Whereas, Volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, also known
8 as "Bigs", selflessly dedicate their time, wisdom, and support to
9 thousands of children across Michigan, offering consistent
10 guidance, encouragement, and inspiration through lasting
11 relationships; and

12 Whereas, Evidence-based research demonstrates that youth who
13 participate in quality mentoring programs, like those provided by
14 Big Brothers Big Sisters, are less likely to engage in risky
15 behaviors and more likely to perform well in school, graduate, and
16 form healthy relationships. These outcomes benefit not only each
17 individual child, but our society as a whole; and

18 Whereas, Compared to their peers, "Littles" in Big Brothers
19 Big Sisters programs are 46 percent less likely to begin using
20 illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol, and
21 52 percent less likely to skip school. These statistics reflect the
22 transformative power of mentorship; and

23 Whereas, The month of September serves as a time to honor and
24 celebrate the mentors, staff, supporters, and community partners
25 who make youth mentoring possible and impactful. It is also a
26 moment to raise awareness about the profound effect positive role
27 models can have in shaping the next generation of leaders; now,
28 therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
2 this legislative body declare September 2025 as Big Brothers Big
3 Sisters Youth Mentoring Month in the state of Michigan; and be it
4 further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Big
6 Brothers Big Sisters of Michigan and its local affiliates, with
7 deep appreciation for their continued service to Michigan's youth
8 and families.