

Reps. Tedder, Allor, Bizon, Canfield, Cochran, Cox, Crawford, Elder, Faris, Geiss, Green, Greig, Hammoud, Howrylak, Hughes, Lasinski, Liberati, Marino, Maturen, Phelps and Sneller offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 268.

A resolution to declare March 8, 2018, as Rare Disease Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

Whereas, While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

Whereas, Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected, we believe this resolution can raise awareness and save lives; and

Whereas, While the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as Lou Gehrig's disease and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare disorders bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising awareness to support the search for treatments; and

Whereas, Thousands of residents in Michigan are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in ten Americans has a rare disease; and

Whereas, The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Awareness Day on March 8, 2018; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 8, 2018, as Rare Disease Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.