

Rep. Sheppard offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 267.

A resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

Whereas, The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing by providing that a person may not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or presence of children; and

Whereas, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in April 1968 and it was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on April 11, 1968; and

Whereas, The Fair Housing Act was signed into law at an important cultural turning point in America after decades of civil unrest, racial zoning, and court sanctioned deed discrimination based on race, national origin, and religion. The legislation states "It is the policy of the United States to provide, within constitutional limitations, for fair housing throughout the United States." and was an important step in prohibiting such discrimination; and

Whereas, In 1975, the National Association of Realtors adopted an agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to promote fair housing, educate members regarding their rights and obligations under the Fair Housing Act, develop and recommend fair housing procedures for members, and participate in community based fair housing activities; and

Whereas, In 1988, the National Association of Realtors supported expanding the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on familial status and handicap or disability; and

Whereas, Fair and affordable housing is vital to the success of our growing state, and it is the responsibility of government agencies, the Legislature, and industry leaders to promote, educate, and participate in fair housing practices; and

Whereas, As an industry leader, Michigan Realtors® is committed to combating housing discrimination and pledges to give equal professional services to any person regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

Whereas, The health, education, and economic opportunities of Michigan families are directly impacted by where they live. Discriminatory housing practices create racial, social, and economic divides in our communities that inhibit the growth of our citizens; and

Whereas, Diversity creates stronger communities and provides Michigan citizens the best opportunity to achieve the American dream and fair housing plays an integral role in fostering such communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. We support and encourage fair housing policies throughout the state and recognize the Michigan Realtors as a partner in combating housing discrimination.