

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 199

Reps. Linting, Thompson, Robinson, Schriver, Schuette,
Steckloff and Bierlein offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 2025 as Health Literacy Month
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The American Medical Association recognizes limited
4 health literacy as a stronger predictor of poor health status and
5 outcomes than age, race, education level, socioeconomic status, or
6 employment status; and

7 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
8 adopts two definitions that when combined constitute health
9 literacy; Personal Health Literacy: the degree to which individuals
10 have the ability to find, understand, and use information and
11 services to inform health related decisions and actions for
12 themselves and others; and Organizational Health Literacy: the
13 degree to which organizations enable individuals to find,

1 understand, and use information and services to inform health-
2 related decisions and actions for themselves; and

3 Whereas, October has been recognized as Health Literacy Month
4 internationally since 1999. It has been recognized by federal
5 organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S.
7 Department of Health and Human Services. Thirteen states have
8 recognized October as Health Literacy Month in the past 15 years to
9 raise awareness about the importance of health literacy and its
10 effects on health status and outcomes; and

11 Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
12 estimates that 9 in 10 Americans have limited health literacy and
13 lack the skills necessary to manage their health and prevent
14 diseases, to seek and obtain health care, and communicate
15 effectively with their providers. Limited health literacy affects
16 individuals across every segment of the population, regardless of
17 if individuals possess strong literacy skills or higher education.
18 Promoting clear and understandable health information can assist
19 individuals take greater responsibility for their well-being; and

20 Whereas, It is estimated that the burden of unaddressed
21 limited health literacy represents between 7 to 17% of all national
22 personal health expenditures and costs the U.S. healthcare system
23 \$106 to \$238 billion a year. Limited health literacy is associated
24 with: 1) An increased risk of sentinel events; 2) Worse overall
25 health status; 3) Reduced ability to understand health messages; 4)
26 Limited ability to follow and adhere to medication instructions and
27 understand labels; 5) Lower likelihood of seeking or receiving
28 preventative care; 6) Greater use of the emergency department and
29 increased hospitalizations; 7) Lower satisfaction with care; 8)

1 Shorter life expectancy. These risks are preventable when health
2 literacy is addressed; and

3 Whereas, Health literacy training for providers of any
4 experience level is shown to improve patient health literacy and
5 prevent patient-provider miscommunication which poses risks such as
6 sentinel events. However, health literacy practices, such as the
7 use of plain language, are not consistently included in curriculum
8 within health professional's training at schools of Medicine,
9 Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Allied Healthcare
10 across Michigan; and

11 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has
12 declared health literacy as a foundational principle and
13 overarching goal of Healthy People 2030. Their updated goals
14 include eliminating health disparities, achieving improved health
15 for all, attaining health literacy to improve the health and well-
16 being of all, and stressing the responsibility of organizations to
17 address health literacy; and

18 Whereas, Federal organizations are bound by The Plain Writing
19 Act of 2010 to write "clear government communication that the
20 public can understand and use". Health organizations across
21 Michigan are committed to promoting and supporting strong
22 organizational health literacy; and

23 Whereas, Health literacy is necessary to achieve improved
24 health by providing health information and that is understandable,
25 accessible, and actionable to all. Addressing health literacy needs
26 can improve the health status and quality of life for millions of
27 Michiganders; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
29 this legislative body declare October 2025 as Health Literacy Month

1 in the state of Michigan.