

Reps. DeRoche, Spade, Clack, LeBlanc, Hammel, Hammon, Gonzales, Shaffer, Palsrok, Polidori, Lahti, Lindberg, Sak, Gillard, Hildenbrand, Proos, Hoogendyk, Hansen, LaJoy, David Law, Brandenburg, Moore, Moolenaar, Green, Wenke, Stakoe, Virgil Smith, Mayes, Clemente, Marleau, Griffin, Dean, Espinoza, Elsenheimer, Horn, Pastor, Meltzer, Garfield, Booher, Knollenberg, Agema, Calley, Moss, Pavlov, Nitz, Emmons, Pearce, Ball, Opsommer, Caswell, Stahl, Steil, Rick Jones, Sheltroun, Casperson, Leland, Jackson, Cushingberry, Bauer, Cheeks, Accavitti, Bieda, Byrnes, Condino, Hopgood, Johnson, Robert Jones, Lemmons, Meadows, Palmer, Tobocman, Vagnozzi and Valentine offered the following resolution:

**House Resolution No. 357.**

A resolution proclaiming May 2008 as National Foster Care Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our state; and

Whereas, In Michigan there are over 18,500 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family; and

Whereas, All young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

Whereas, Foster, kinship and adoptive families, who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect thereby launching young people into successful adulthood; and

Whereas, Dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

Whereas, There are numerous individuals, and public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care. The enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents, and the foster care system, is only as good as those who choose to be part of it; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body proclaim May 2008 as National Foster Care Month in the state of Michigan. We urge all people of Michigan and local governmental agencies to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies.