

Reps. Valentine, Ball, Barnett, Terry Brown, Constan, Cushingberry, Dean, Durhal, Geiss, Gonzales, Griffin, Hammel, Robert Jones, Lahti, LeBlanc, Lemmons, Lipton, Liss, Lori, Miller, Neumann, Polidori, Rocca, Roy Schmidt, Spade, Switalski and Leland offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 53.

A resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the merger between the Michigan Education Support Personnel Association and the Michigan Education Association.

Whereas, 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the merger between the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association (ESP) and the Michigan Education Association (MEA); and

Whereas, Following from the initial organizing of ESP members in the mid-1970s, the 1984 merger of the two associations made MEA one of the first state associations to provide full membership rights to all non-supervisory members of the education workforce as a unified organization; and

Whereas, During the past quarter century, thousands of school employees from the paraprofessional, clerical, food service, transportation, custodial, maintenance, skilled trades, security, technical, health and student services ranks have joined the MEA, now making up approximately one-third of overall active membership; and

Whereas, The combination of those ESP members with other active and retired MEA members create an exceptionally strong education union that advocates for the working conditions of all school employees and the learning conditions of all Michigan students; and

Whereas, The leadership of MEA ESP has been instrumental in the fight against a litany of anti-public school employee initiatives, including the defeat of vouchers in 2000 and ongoing battles against privatization of school employee jobs, and will continue to be critical in facing the challenges still ahead; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body honor the many contributions of ESP members on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the MESPA/ESP merger; now, be it further

Resolved, That thanks to the involvement of ESP members, MEA is a stronger union and a better advocate for public schools, their employees and, especially, their students.