

Rep. Townsend offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 66.

A resolution to declare April 2013 as Multiple Birth Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc., Twins Magazine and the Fetal Hope Foundation have joined with local organizations to establish and celebrate April 2013 as the 5th Annual National Multiple Birth Awareness Month; and

Whereas, Multiple births have been on the rise over the past decades. The number of live births in twin deliveries rose 70 percent between 1980 and 2004 and since has remained fairly stable. In the 1980's and 90's, twin birth rates rose 80 percent for women in their thirties and 190 percent for mothers aged 40 and over. Since the mid-2000's that rate has leveled off. In 2010, there were 132,562 twin births, 5,503 triplets, 313 quadruplets and 37 higher order multiples born nationwide; and

Whereas, With the increase in multiple births, there is an increased risk for the mothers and babies. Nationally, one out of every 8 twins and one out of every 3 triplets are born very preterm, compared with fewer than 2 out of every 100 single births. Death during infancy is 8 times more common for multiples than singletons; and

Whereas, This month will be used to spread awareness about the issues that families of multiple births face, including; what to know when expecting multiples Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndromes and other fetal issues directly affecting multiple birth pregnancies, premature births and low birth weights, multiples with special needs, the exceptional physical and bonding demands placed on parents, and the separation of multiples in classrooms; and

Whereas, There are many local support groups for parents of multiples. The Michigan Organization of Mothers of Twins Club was founded in 1964 and has many local clubs throughout the state for parents or expectant parents to get involved. Many of these clubs are planning events throughout their communities during this month to celebrate their families, increase participation, and help out other families in need; and

Whereas, By raising awareness of multiple births, this month also encourages parents of multiples or who are expecting multiples to seek out the resources and support found with local mothers of twins clubs, through their prenatal care provider, pediatrician, local hospital, the Michigan Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, or friends and family. These clubs are established to serve parents or guardians of multiple birth children through education, research and networking; and

Whereas, We join with the many parents of multiples to celebrate the joys and challenges they face in raising their twins, triplets or more and support efforts to educate our communities about the needs and challenges of multiple birth children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative declare April 2013 as Multiple Birth Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.