

Rep. Kesto offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 355.

A resolution to declare May 15, 2014, as Chaldean American Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Approximately 130,000 Chaldeans reside in Michigan, the largest population outside of the Middle East; and

Whereas, The Chaldean population began immigrating to America during the 1920's for better economic, religious and political freedom, bringing with them a strong work ethic which continues to positively add to the growth of Michigan through the establishment of 15,000 Chaldean-owned businesses throughout the state; and

Whereas, The Chaldean community has undoubtedly proven their diligent business skills and entrepreneurial spirit with nearly sixty-one percent of Chaldean American households owning at least one business and thirty-nine percent owning two or more as well as an estimated nine out of ten food stores in Detroit; and

Whereas, The Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce currently has 878 members, representing more than thirty-five hundred businesses with goals of building community ties, ensuring membership value and advocacy for the benefit of Chaldean people; and

Whereas, The Chaldean Community Foundation has promoted steady population growth by providing services to the newly arrived Iraqi Chaldean refugees in efforts to help refugees become contributing members to Michigan through assistance with housing, job placement, language development, social and government program directives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 15, 2014, as Chaldean American Day in the state of Michigan. We acknowledge the contributions of this innovative and entrepreneurial community as an important part of Michigan's diverse history; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce as evidence of the highest esteem of the members of the Michigan Legislature.