

Senators Kahn, Richardville, Meekhof, Kowall, Moolenaar, Marleau, Schuitmaker, Hansen, Casperson, Emmons, Booher, Jansen, Robertson, Hune, Hildenbrand, Jones, Pappageorge, Pavlov, Proos, Colbeck, Walker, Nofs, Caswell, Green, Brandenburg, Ananich, Gregory, Hood, Young, Johnson, Bieda, Anderson, Hopgood, Smith, Hunter and Whitmer offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 145.**

A resolution commemorating the Fifth Annual Michigan Chaldean American Legislative Day.

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

Whereas, The Chaldean population began immigrating to America during the 1920s for better economic, religious, and political freedom. They brought with them a strong work ethic which continues to positively impact 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 61 percent of Chaldean-American households owning at least one business and 39 percent owning two or more businesses, as well as an estimated ownership of 9 out of 10 food stores in Detroit; and

Whereas, The Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce currently has 878 members, representing more than 3,500 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-arriving Iraqi Chaldean refugees in efforts to help them become contributing members to the great state of Michigan, through assistance with housing, job placement, language development, and social and government program directives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we commemorate the Fifth Annual Michigan Chaldean American Legislative Day on May 15, 2014, with the entire state, to 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 transmitted to the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce as evidence of our highest esteem.