

Rep. LaFontaine offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 72.

A resolution to declare May 2015 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The summer months call people to Michigan's outdoors to camp, hike, and otherwise enjoy the beauty of our lush green forests. It is appropriate to remind residents to take proper precautions and follow safety rules when visiting our woodlands. In recent years, Lyme disease has been a health concern among outdoor enthusiasts. We urge Michigan residents to be aware of the prevention, early signs and symptoms, and treatment of Lyme disease; and

Whereas, An illness caused by the painless bite of a tiny deer tick, Lyme disease can cause serious health problems involving the heart, joints, and nervous system in humans and animals. Prompt medical attention will minimize complications of this illness. Early symptoms present as headaches, stiff muscles, painful joints, fever, nausea and fatigue. Usually within a few days to several weeks of being bitten by an infected tick, about 60 percent may develop a circular rash. However, if no rash is detected, early detection of the disease can be difficult because symptoms can mimic other illnesses, then disappear and reoccur as serious health problems which places the patient at high risk for misdiagnosis; and

Whereas, First recognized in children in 1975 in Lyme, Connecticut, this disease has been reported with increasing frequency throughout the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 300,000 cases of Lyme disease occur nationally each year. It is imperative the citizens of Michigan be fully informed about Lyme disease and the serious health complications it can cause. We salute the Michigan Lyme Disease Association and the Michigan Department of Community Health for their efforts in promoting the state's awareness, knowledge, prevention and treatment of Lyme disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 2015 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.