

Rep. Sheppard offered the following resolution:

House Resolution 93.

A resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Head Start.

Whereas, Head Start began in 1965 and is the nation's leading child and family growth program providing children from low-income families development skills to ensure readiness for school; and

Whereas, The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Head Start, the most successful long-term federal program in history; and

Whereas, In 1967, a community of concerned parents, programs, and partners formed their own not-for-profit Head Start agency, the Michigan Head Start Association, to help Michigan's poorest children and families to achieve school readiness and family self-sufficiency; and

Whereas, MHSA is the only state organization dedicated exclusively to the concerns of Head Start to provide services and support to the Michigan Head Start community, representing 34,000 children and their families; and

Whereas, MHSA provides comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start services for low-income children ages 0-5 and their families, including early childhood education, health, dental, and mental wellness services, nutrition services, transportation, and social services and family support; and

Whereas, MHSA also provides parent involvement, training, and internship opportunities that empower parents to gain leadership skills, marketable job skills, and on-the-job experience that aids them in achieving self-sufficiency for their families; and

Whereas, Head Start programs, including MHSA, provide living-wage pay jobs in communities that need them most; and

Whereas, Preschoolers who entered Head Start overweight or obese had achieved a healthier weight status than children in a comparison group by the time they entered kindergarten; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the 50th anniversary of Head Start. We recognize MHSA for its accomplishments in providing high-quality Head Start services in the Great Lakes State; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Head Start Association.