

Reps. Kesto, Crawford, Hovey-Wright, Howrylak, Kelly, LaVoy and Love offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 337.

A resolution to declare September 2016 as Kinship Care Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Kinship Care month provides an opportunity to recognize the children and their grandparents and other relatives who raise them in kinship care and who ensure their safety, promote their well-being, and establish a stable household in which they can be nurtured and thrive and succeed; and

Whereas, More than 150,000 children throughout Michigan are raised in kinship families with grandparent or relative caregivers who have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for their young relatives and provide them with a sense of connection, security, and ties to their cultural heritage, their family, and their community; and

Whereas, The public becomes increasingly aware of the challenges faced by children, grandparents, and other relatives in kinship care to work in partnership with the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice, and other systems to access services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their life; and

Whereas, Michiganders join to honor grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural, and suburban households across the state who step forward out of love and loyalty to care for relatives when the child's biological parents are no longer able to do so; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare September 2016 as Kinship Care Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all of Michigan's citizens to raise their awareness and understanding of the positive family environment that kinship families offer for many children.