

Substitute for House Resolution No. 108.

A resolution to declare May 2017 as Asthma and Air Quality Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Asthma is a long-term inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lung constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing; and

Whereas, Asthma is an under-managed chronic disease in the state of Michigan, as evidenced by data on self-management behaviors and health care utilization. In 2014, 10.9% of adults and 10.2% of children in Michigan reported that they currently have asthma. This is much higher than the national average, with only 7.6% of adults and 8.4% of children reported having current asthma nationwide in 2015. Furthermore, asthma hospitalization is common, with 13,000 stays in Michigan in 2013; and

Whereas, The rate of asthma hospitalization in Detroit is three times higher than the state of Michigan as a whole and 24% of all asthma hospitalizations in Michigan residents occurred in residents of Detroit. The prevalence of current asthma among Detroit adults was 29% higher than in Michigan as a whole and the rate of asthma mortality in Detroit in 2011-2013 was 2.4 times higher than the Michigan rate. From 2012-2014, 15.5% of Detroit adults had asthma while only 11.0% of the entire adult population of Michigan had asthma. Detroit was named by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America as one of the ten most challenging cities to live in with asthma in 2014; and

Whereas, Asthma is the leading cause of preventable hospitalizations for Michigan children and asthma is the leading chronic cause of school absenteeism in Michigan. Emergency department visits for Michigan children on Medicaid were 20 asthma visits per 10,000 children in 2012. In addition, among children less than 18 years of age on Medicaid, persistent asthma had a prevalence of 6.2 percent, this is a higher percentage than the statewide average. Detroit's children suffer the highest asthma burden in the state; and

Whereas, Asthma is influenced by not just genetics, but also air quality conditions in the home and air pollution. Short-term exposure to sulfur dioxide ranging from 5 minutes to 24 hours is linked to increased asthma symptoms and Michigan is currently designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as having a "non-attainment area" for meeting the national primary sulfur dioxide standard. Efforts to reduce air pollution from industrial sources and our roadways are critical in order to fully address asthma in our state; and

Whereas, Deteriorating environmental conditions have seen the lifelong asthma persistence prevalence increased by 4.2% between 2003 and 2015. Public health efforts should be should be directed to persons with asthma in Michigan to improve asthma control and prevent severe outcomes; and

Whereas, May is a nationally recognized month dedicated to educating all Americans about air quality, comprehensive asthma management and to increase public understanding of asthma and how to manage it; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 2017 as Asthma and Air Quality Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.