

Rep. Brinks offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 186.

A resolution to declare October 2017 as School Library Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, International School Library Month was first approved by the International Association of School Librarianship in 2007; and

Whereas, School libraries and their respective librarians, educators, and volunteers serve on the front lines in the battle against illiteracy as they foster a love for reading and learning in our children. Reading skills are fundamental in laying a foundation for future academic success in every subject, at every grade level and for every student; and

Whereas, According to the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan students continue to struggle in reading, with less than half of the state's third graders passing the English language arts portion of the M-STEP. Nurturing a child's literacy skills is an investment both schools and parents must make in our children even before they enter kindergarten. The brain undergoes its most significant period of growth in the earliest stages of life, providing a crucial window of opportunity to enrich cognitive development; and

Whereas, Early childhood education may also provide necessary early intervention for students who struggle with emotional, social, or learning disabilities and development delays that could impact their ability to read and write at grade-level. This is especially true for children in low-income communities where time, resources, and funds to ensure healthy development are limited; and

Whereas, Access to school libraries and personnel alone cannot improve Michigan's reading proficiency scores. Options including school readiness programs and other early childhood programs will empower Michigan students and families to succeed; and

Whereas, School libraries are one of many ways we can ensure students of all ages and walks of life will have access to resources that will allow them to learn and grow as readers and writers while providing an environment that offers social and emotional support; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare October 2017 as School Library Month in the state of Michigan.