

Senators O'Brien and Schuitmaker offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 88.

A resolution to recognize August as Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month.

Whereas, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two and one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA; and

Whereas, Most children impacted by SMA succumb to the disease before their second birthday; and

Whereas, SMA is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those who survive with the disease; and

Whereas, SMA does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, or gender; and

Whereas, SMA does not impact the mind. Children with SMA are bright, sensitive, and playful in spite of their failing bodies; and

Whereas, The nation's leading researchers believe that with adequate resources a viable treatment or cure is attainable in as little as five years; and

Whereas, Increased awareness of spinal muscular atrophy will lead to increased knowledge and increased support for both disease research and the families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

Whereas, Patient Groups have named August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize August 2017 as Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge citizens to help raise awareness about SMA and to support the organizations that are working hard to find a cure for SMA and helping those who live with this illness.