

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 47

Senator Zorn offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate May 12-18, 2019, as STEM Awareness
2 Week.

3 Whereas, Michigan's unique history in agriculture, automotive,
4 chemistry, manufacturing, automation, and innovation across many
5 sectors provides an opportunity to light the way for our future in
6 computational thinking and modeling by promoting, adopting, and
7 implementing computer science standards in our state; and

8 Whereas, STEM education refers to the areas of science,
9 technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

10 Whereas, Currently only 35 percent of high schools nationally
11 offer computer science, yet 90 percent of parents want their
12 children to have access to computer science learning opportunities;

1 and

2 Whereas, Computer science is a discipline in which students
3 learn new approaches to problem solving, harness the power of
4 computational thinking, and create, not just consume, technology;
5 and

6 Whereas, The adoption of K-12 computer science standards in
7 our state is critical in order for our students to compete
8 regionally, nationally, and globally; and

9 Whereas, Participating in STEM activities increases engagement
10 in education, promotes equity, supports literacy development, and
11 fosters technologically alert and empowered students who gain
12 multiple ways to frame problems and transfer knowledge to new
13 situations; and

14 Whereas, A globally competitive, knowledge-based economy is a
15 fact for students—now and in the foreseeable future—and science,
16 technology, engineering, and mathematics are crucial drivers in
17 that economy; and

18 Whereas, STEM is not only science, technology, engineering,
19 and mathematics, but also a way of learning in which students
20 comprehend by doing, thinking critically, and providing solutions
21 that lead to healthy, thriving communities; and

22 Whereas, Occupations in STEM are among the highest paying,
23 fastest growing, and most influential in stimulating economic
24 growth and innovation; and

25 Whereas, If Michigan students become inspired by science,
26 technology, engineering, and mathematics at an early age, they will
27 be more likely to enter those growing career fields when they
28 graduate; and

29 Whereas, The Michigan STEM Advisory Council has supported

1 opportunities for transforming learning in computer science with
2 statewide professional learning through the program, MI-Coding
3 (<http://www.mi-coding.com>); and

4 Whereas, A STEM education will ensure our state's workforce
5 will be equipped for the jobs of tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
7 body commemorate May 12-18, 2019, as STEM Awareness Week.