

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.173

Reps. Posthumus, Allor, Bezotte, Breen, Calley, Cavanagh, Haadsma, Kuppa, Morse, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Steenland, Thanedar, Weiss and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare October 2021 as Library Appreciation  
2       Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, The Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually  
4       designates the month of October as a statewide observance to  
5       celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians,  
6       and library staff; and

7       Whereas, Michigan's libraries (school, public, academic,  
8       tribal, cooperatives, and special libraries) are vital, dynamic  
9       centers of discovery and lifelong learning, serving as cornerstones  
10      in healthy communities; and

11      Whereas, Librarians and library workers play key roles in

1 connecting their community members to resources and information,  
2 helping people explore, imagine, and discover new horizons in the  
3 vast world of information, knowledge, and entertainment; and

4       Whereas, Today's libraries are less about what they have on  
5 the shelves and more about what they can do with and for their  
6 communities, whether it's through virtual services or in-person  
7 visits; and

8       Whereas, Libraries and librarians work to create an equitable  
9 society by providing free access to accurate information to all  
10 people; and

11       Whereas, In times of crisis, libraries and library staff play  
12 a critical role in continuing to support their communities when  
13 they need it the most; and

14       Whereas, Libraries bring together diverse populations and are  
15 a resource for all members of the community regardless of race,  
16 ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or  
17 socio-economic status; and

18       Whereas, Libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and  
19 collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve; and

20       Whereas, Libraries serve as a vital connection to the people,  
21 places, and ideas of the world through books, magazines, videos,  
22 and the Internet and are the primary point of online access for  
23 people without computers at home, school, or work; and

24       Whereas, Libraries provide indispensable educational resources  
25 for children and teenagers and are on the front lines in the battle  
26 against illiteracy, offering plenty of free activities, as well as  
27 safe, enriching entertainment for the whole family; and

28       Whereas, One-half of all Michiganders hold library cards, and  
29 in 2020, visited their local libraries in-person more than 33

1 million times, virtually nearly 55 million times, and borrowed over  
2 57 million physical items and close to 12 million e-materials; and

3       Whereas, In 2020, Michigan public libraries provided more than  
4 13,000 live virtual programs for children, teens, and adults  
5 reaching over 608,000 people; and

6       Whereas, During the worldwide pandemic in 2020, 76% of  
7 Michigan's public libraries offered curbside services and 82%  
8 continued to provide reference services via phone and internet -  
9 providing a way to continue getting information and materials to  
10 residents even when library buildings were closed to the public;  
11 and

12       Whereas, Hundreds of libraries and millions of library  
13 supporters across Michigan are celebrating Michigan Library  
14 Appreciation Month this October; now, therefore, be it

15       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
16 this legislative body declare October 2021 as Michigan Library  
17 Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all  
18 residents to visit their library in person or virtually to connect  
19 to the myriad of services, resources, and collections their library  
20 provides.