

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 221

Reps. Anthony, Cynthia Johnson, Brabec, Hood, Rogers, Brixie, Scott, Breen, Hope, Peterson, Steckloff, Garza and Tyrone Carter offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare youth violence in Michigan a public  
2 health epidemic.

3           Whereas, Youth violence is defined by the Centers for Disease  
4 Control and Prevention (CDC) as the intentional use of physical  
5 force or power by young people ages 10 to 24 to threaten or harm  
6 others, generally within the same age or peer group. Youth violence  
7 negatively impacts all types of communities, though the extent and  
8 types of youth violence vary; and

9           Whereas, Evidence shows that youth violence is relatively  
10 common in the United States. According to the CDC, nearly 1 in 5  
11 high school students reported being bullied on school property in

1 the last year, and about 1 in 7 were bullied electronically.  
2 Homicide remains the third leading cause of death for people ages  
3 10 to 24. Nationally each day, about 13 young people are victims of  
4 homicide and about 1,100 are treated in emergency departments for  
5 nonfatal assault-related injuries; and

6       Whereas, Youth violence impacts communities across the state  
7 of Michigan. According to the National Center for Education  
8 Statistics, 22 percent of public school students in grades 9  
9 through 12 in Michigan reported having been bullied on school  
10 property or electronically in 2017, while 24 percent reported  
11 having been in at least one physical fight. In addition, some law  
12 enforcement agencies in Michigan have reported an increase in  
13 violent incidents among youth since the start of the COVID-19  
14 Pandemic; and

15       Whereas, Gun violence in particular has a devastating effect  
16 on youth in Michigan. According to the organization Every Town for  
17 Gun Safety, guns are the second leading cause of death among  
18 children and teens in Michigan. In addition, an average of 89  
19 children and teens die by guns every year in Michigan, and 52  
20 percent of these deaths are homicides; and

21       Whereas, Youth violence can negatively impact the physical and  
22 mental health of young people. Youth violence has been shown to  
23 lead to many long-term negative health and behavioral outcomes  
24 including higher rates of smoking, substance use, obesity, high-  
25 risk sexual behavior, depression, academic difficulty, school drop-  
26 out, and suicide. In addition, those involved in youth violence are  
27 more likely to become both perpetrators and victims of violence in  
28 the future; and

29       Whereas, The negative effect of youth violence extends to the

1 entire community. Violence generally increases healthcare costs,  
2 decreases property value, and disrupts social services by straining  
3 community resources. In addition, youth violence can impact the  
4 perceived and actual safety within a community, which can then  
5 lessen participation in community events and decrease the viability  
6 of local businesses; now, therefore, be it

7       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we recognize  
8 the magnitude of the crisis of youth violence in Michigan and  
9 declare it to be a public health epidemic.