

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 36

Reps. Coffia, Rheingans, Longjohn, Conlin, Foreman, Roth, Tsernoglou, Rogers, Koleszar, Wooden, Breen, Arbit, Young, MacDonell, Martus, Hope, Xiong, Morgan, Scott and Miller offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution urging the federal government to prioritize
2 creating a national strategy to curb the spread of bird flu.

3 Whereas, Avian influenza, commonly referred to as the "bird
4 flu," is a disease caused by avian influenza A viruses often
5 originating in wild water bird hosts that commonly spreads across
6 bird populations. Symptoms in birds can vary widely, with wild
7 birds often infected without showing signs of sickness, but the
8 disease can be deadly for poultry like chickens and turkeys. In
9 humans, bird flu may cause symptoms including fever, fatigue,
10 headaches, muscle aches, and, in severe cases, shortness of breath,
11 seizures, and death; and

1 Whereas, The United States is currently in the midst of a bird
2 flu outbreak affecting the poultry and dairy industries, according
3 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of
4 January 28, 2025, there were over 11,000 positive tests among wild
5 birds for avian influenza. The CDC reports that, as of February
6 2025, over 150 million poultry had been affected by bird flu and 51
7 separate jurisdictions had seen outbreaks. Worldwide, the disease
8 has spread from a variety of bird populations to other animals,
9 including mammals like cows, cats, and humans. In February 2025,
10 the CDC reported that nearly 1,000 dairy herds across the United
11 States had been affected by the bird flu outbreak, with confirmed
12 outbreaks having occurred in 16 states. Among humans, bird flu has
13 been confirmed as having infected 68 individuals, at least one of
14 whom having died; and

15 Whereas, Although currently there is no evidence of human-to-
16 human transmission of bird flu in the United States, the continued
17 outbreak risks a viral evolution that could be devastating to
18 Americans nationwide. Michigan first saw the emergence of the bird
19 flu in our domestic poultry populations in 2021, and, by 2024, the
20 disease had infected our dairy cattle. As reported by scientists,
21 the current bird flu outbreak is one of the first instances of such
22 a disease sustaining prolonged, efficient transmission from mammal
23 to mammal. Future mutations could render the bird flu easily
24 transmissible between humans if the outbreak remains unchecked; and

25 Whereas, Aside from the potential unforeseen consequences that
26 the bird flu may have on our collective health, the outbreak also
27 has direct impacts on the health and productivity of our
28 agriculture industry. Already, the United States is in the midst of
29 experiencing the downstream effects of the disease infecting

1 poultry and dairy cattle stock - egg prices in Michigan and across
2 the nation have been steady rising which is due, in part, to
3 complications from bird flu ravaging bird flocks. If outbreaks
4 remain unchecked and farmers are forced to regularly cull large
5 numbers of birds in an effort to contain the spread of disease,
6 eggs and chicken prices will undoubtedly rise in response. In dairy
7 farms, bird flu outbreaks among cows have severe impacts on milk
8 production. As the bird flu continues to undermine our agricultural
9 industry, consumers in Michigan and across the United States will
10 continue to bear rising food costs; and

11 Whereas, President Trump recently ordered a "blackout" for
12 federal health agencies, including the CDC, which prohibited real-
13 time external communications about public health information.
14 President Trump also issued orders that resulted in the removal of
15 various datapoints from health agency websites. These actions have
16 modified, delayed, and prevented essential public health
17 information from being shared with the public. Without timely and
18 uncensored updates from health experts at the federal level,
19 healthcare professionals in Michigan and beyond are rendered unable
20 to appropriately respond to the outbreak of bird flu and mitigate
21 the risks posed by such a continued spread; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
23 federal government to prioritize creating a national strategy to
24 curb the spread of bird flu; and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 President of the United States, the President of the United States
27 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
28 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.