

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

Reps. Hope, Garza, Gay-Dagnogo, Haadsma, Liberati, Pagan, Sabo, Sowerby, and Stone offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare April 16, 2019, as Healthcare  
2 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16, 2019,  
4 and is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead  
5 for health care decisions related to end of life care and medical  
6 decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for  
7 themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives  
8 to communicate these important health care decisions; and

9           Whereas, It is estimated that only about 20 percent of people  
10 in Michigan have executed an advance directive, in part due to a  
11 lack of knowledge about advance directives and considerable public  
12 confusion arising from advance directives that are often written in



1 difficult to understand legal and medical terms; and

2       Whereas, Easy-to-understand advance directives that are  
3 written in plain language, such as Five Wishes and Elder Law of  
4 Michigan, distributed by the non-profit organization Aging with  
5 Dignity, are desirable because they enable completion and foster  
6 important family discussions; and

7       Whereas, Because Five Wishes is available in 29 languages and  
8 in Braille, citizens of our ethnic and culturally diverse state  
9 can, like English speakers, state their wishes about comfort,  
10 dignity, and the personal, family, and spiritual issues that matter  
11 most; and

12       Whereas, Michigan citizens can complete an advanced directive  
13 and submit it to the statewide registry called Peace of Mind; and

14       Whereas, One of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions  
15 Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living  
16 facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to  
17 participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent  
18 information to the public about advance directives and increase the  
19 number of Michigan residents with advance directives; and

20       Whereas, Many of the Michigan health care, business, faith-  
21 based groups, and senior services organizations have demonstrated  
22 commendable leadership in furthering patient and caregiver-focused  
23 advance care planning, and are committed to educating the public  
24 about the importance of discussing health care choices and  
25 completing advance directives; and

26       Whereas, As a result of April 16, 2019, being recognized as  
27 Healthcare Decisions Day throughout Michigan, more citizens will  
28 have conversations about their health care decisions, more citizens  
29 will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and

1 fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with  
2 making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance  
3 from the patient; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
5 this legislative body declare April 16, 2019, as Healthcare  
6 Decisions Day in the state of Michigan. We call this observance to  
7 the attention of all our citizens.