

A resolution recognizing the month of October 2019, as Michigan Library Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually designates the month of October as a statewide observance to celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians and library professionals to their communities and to promote library use and support; and

Whereas, Michigan's libraries, including school, public, academic and special libraries, are vital institutions and dynamic centers of lifelong learning that play a unique role in ensuring the public's right to know and empowering people from all walks of life to make informed decisions about the world around them; and

Whereas, Libraries play an integral role as community, educational and cultural centers that bring together diverse populations and serve as important cornerstones in healthy communities; and

Whereas, Libraries have the most recent ideas and information available on subjects and are a cost-effective means of providing education, training and the opportunity for self-improvement to all individuals without regard to age, race, income or socioeconomic background; and

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

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

Whereas, Librarians and library workers play key roles in helping people explore, imagine and discover new horizons in the vast world of information, knowledge and entertainment; and

Whereas, Two-thirds of adult Americans visit their local public libraries annually, with more than a billion visits made each year by adults, and likewise by students to their school libraries; and

Whereas, Michigan's libraries play a key role in the statewide and national discourse on intellectual freedom, equity of access and narrowing the digital divide and are the cornerstone of our democracy; and

Whereas, Thousands of libraries and library supporters across Michigan are celebrating Michigan Library Appreciation Month this year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body recognize the month of October 2019 as Michigan Library Appreciation Month, and encourage all citizens of Michigan to visit their local library and explore the wide variety of cultural and educational riches that libraries hold; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize Michigan's librarians, library professionals and supporters for their contributions to enrich their communities.