

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 17, 2019

**RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2019 AS
FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH**

Introduced by Information Technology & Communication Committee

Commissioner Haskell moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers.

WHEREAS, May is National Foster Care Awareness Month and during that time, we reflect on the dedication of foster and kinship caregivers, faith-based and community organizations, and child welfare professionals who are improving the lives of children and youth in foster care throughout the country. Michigan is deeply indebted to these selfless and compassionate Americans. We also observe this month, with sadness, the plight of innocent children who are in foster care because their lives have been disrupted by neglect or abuse; and

WHEREAS, providing a stable, secure, and nurturing home environment is one of the greatest gifts a foster parent or guardian can give a child. This critical investment in their well-being, safety, and sense of belonging brings precious hope to children in need. We acknowledge, with gratitude, the tremendous sacrifices made by our foster families as they open their hearts and lives and provide secure and supportive homes for the hundreds of thousands of infants, children, and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, we also take this opportunity to acknowledge that there is still much more we can do to prevent the abuse and neglect that forces children into foster care placements. As the number of children placed in foster care continues to increase, driven in part by the opioid crisis and drug abuse, we are dedicated to bringing help and healing to families threatened by addiction so that parents and children can stay together in a safe and stable home environmental; and

WHEREAS, we are blessed that our country is filled with generous individuals and families who willingly welcome children in need into their homes so that they can experience loving guardianship and some of the joys of family life. Many of these heroic families provide foster care for children with complex medical and challenging psychological and behavioral needs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners proclaim May as National Foster Care Awareness Month. We call upon all Michiganders to observe this month, by taking time to help children and youth in foster care, and to recognize the commitment of those who touch their lives, particularly celebrating foster parents and other caregivers. Carried.