

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **5**

BY BODDICKER

A Concurrent Resolution promoting National Heart Failure Awareness Week.

WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is a major national public health problem that impacts five million Americans, or 1.5 percent of the national population; and

WHEREAS, each year 550,000 new cases of congestive heart failure are diagnosed, with 200,000 deaths and one million hospitalizations resulting from the disease; and

WHEREAS, congestive heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalization in patients over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, patients with congestive heart failure who are diagnosed with the most severe symptoms have an approximate 50 percent survival rate of one year, and 50 percent of patients with congestive heart failure who are diagnosed with even mild disease die within five years; and

WHEREAS, the majority of patients are not diagnosed until late in the course of the disease; and

WHEREAS, of an estimated \$10 billion annual national health care expenditure for congestive heart failure the greatest portion, \$8 billion is expended for hospitalization costs; and

WHEREAS, although current treatment guidelines recommend that approximately 80 percent of heart failure patients receive angiotension converting

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1 enzyme (ACE) inhibitors in combination with beta
2 blockers to extend life and reduce costly
3 hospitalizations, only 45 percent of patients are
4 treated with ACE inhibitors and 20 percent of patients
5 receive beta blockers; and

6 WHEREAS, the primary goals of National Heart
7 Failure Awareness Week are to promote research related
8 to all aspects of heart failure and provide a forum
9 for presentation of that research; to educate heart
10 failure caregivers and patients through programs,
11 publications, and other media allowing for more
12 effective treatment and diagnosis of heart failure;
13 and to enhance the quality and duration of life for
14 those with heart failure; NOW THEREFORE

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
16 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa General Assembly
17 endorses the national proclamation of National Heart
18 Failure Awareness Week; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of Public
20 Health transmit treatment guidelines for congestive
21 heart failure published by the Heart Failure Society
22 of America, Inc. to the appropriate health care
23 professionals in the state and urge adoption of these
24 guidelines in their practices; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That physicians and payers
26 of health care costs be encouraged to administer and
27 provide reimbursement for echocardiograms to all
28 patients over 50 years of age with a history of heart
29 disease and begin appropriate treatment as early as
30 possible; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That physicians and payers
2 of health care costs be encouraged to prescribe or
3 provide reimbursement for the standard of care for
4 congestive heart failure, including the federal Food
5 and Drug Administration-approved beta blockers and ACE
6 inhibitors as well as other therapies that have
7 demonstrated a reduction in the mortality and
8 morbidity associated with congestive heart failure;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa General
11 Assembly endorses the inclusion of the latest
12 treatment advances for congestive heart failure in the
13 curriculum of the medical schools in the state.

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