

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17
2 BY BARRY, FREVERT, BOGGESS, BUKTA, MERTZ, REYNOLDS,
3 GRUNDBERG, METCALF, BOAL, DE BOEF, TYMESON, PETERSEN,
4 ROBERTS, ATTEBERRY, ALONS, JACOBS, GARMAN,
5 WINCKLER, HOFFMAN, HORBACH, MASCHER, HOVERSTEN,
6 HANSEN, SMITH, SCHERRMAN, RANTS, *2/27/01 Sponsor added*
7 WEIDMAN, DOTZLER, GREIMANN, JENKINS, and SIEVERS
8 A Resolution designating March 6, 2001, as Breast Cancer
9 Awareness and Lymphedema D-Day.
10 WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer
11 Institute, a reported 8.5 million Americans are living
12 after a diagnosis of cancer, of which about 2 million
13 are breast cancer survivors; and
14 WHEREAS, approximately 2 million Americans suffer
15 from breast cancer today, with 182,800 new cases among
16 women and 1,400 new cases among men estimated to occur
17 annually; and
18 WHEREAS, breast cancer has touched the lives of
19 millions of American families; and
20 WHEREAS, breast cancer claims an American life
21 approximately every 12 minutes, with an estimated
22 40,800 women and 400 men succumbing in the year 2000
23 alone; and
24 WHEREAS, breast cancer is considered the most
25 commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major
26 ethnic group in the United States; and
27 WHEREAS, medical research programs in the United
28 States have dedicated their efforts to finding a cure
29 for breast cancer; and
30 WHEREAS, such dedication to research means that

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1 currently, early diagnosis and treatment of stage I or
2 II breast cancer results in five-year survival rates
3 of nearly 95 percent, a dramatic improvement from the
4 72 percent survival rate of the 1940s;

5 WHEREAS, many cancer patients, including breast,
6 prostate, gynecological, head, neck, and lung cancer,
7 and sarcoma and melanoma patients, suffer from
8 lymphedema, a painful and often debilitating side
9 effect of some cancers; and

10 WHEREAS, recent studies have indicated that 20
11 percent of breast cancer patients will develop
12 lymphedema after surgery and radiation; and

13 WHEREAS, lymphedema is an accumulation of lymphatic
14 fluid that causes swelling in the arms, legs, or other
15 areas of the body and affects both women and men; and

16 WHEREAS, the swelling caused by lymphedema can lead
17 to severe infection or loss of the use of limbs, and
18 patients suffering from lymphedema must endure
19 physical discomfort and disfigurement and cope with
20 the distress caused by these symptoms; and

21 WHEREAS, no drug or effective surgical treatment
22 for lymphedema currently exists; and

23 WHEREAS, research in all areas of lymphedema have
24 been notably limited; and

25 WHEREAS, lymphedema, which has no cure and can
26 occur anytime, has a severe financial, physical, and
27 psychological impact on patients; and

28 WHEREAS, each year on March 6, the National
29 Lymphedema Network sponsors Lymphedema D-Day to honor
30 patients and to raise awareness of the treatment and

1 severity of this condition; NOW THERFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

3 That the House of Representatives designates March 6,
4 2001, as Breast Cancer Awareness and Lymphedema D-Day.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
6 Representatives encourages the citizens of Iowa to
7 honor and support the courageous patients living and
8 coping with this debilitating condition.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
10 Representatives honors those who have bravely fought
11 the battle against breast cancer and who are heroic
12 survivors.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
14 Representatives gives both support and honor to those
15 courageous people who are at this time fighting the
16 battle against breast cancer, and recognizes with
17 honor and compassion those who have lost friends and
18 loved ones to this deadly disease.

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