

MAR 22 2001

Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REYNOLDS

1 A Resolution urging that attention be focused on the
2 potential shortage of qualified nurses in the health
3 care profession.

4 WHEREAS, nurses constitute the largest number of
5 health care professionals in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, many nurses are concerned about the
7 inadequacies of staffing; and

8 WHEREAS, the demand for nursing services has been
9 affected by cost-containment pressures within health
10 care organizations resulting from managed care and an
11 increasingly competitive health care environment;
12 hospital consolidation, downsizing, and reengineering;
13 reductions in inpatient hospitalization rates;
14 increased acuity of hospital patients' conditions; and
15 a shift of outpatient care from hospitals to
16 ambulatory and community-based settings, all of which
17 affect the use of qualified nurses; and

18 WHEREAS, the declining enrollments in nursing
19 programs, the aging of the current workforce, and the
20 rate of qualified persons leaving the career indicate
21 a future shortage of nurses; and

22 WHEREAS, efforts must be immediately commenced to
23 recruit new nurses and encourage existing nurses to
24 remain in the nursing profession through adequate
25 orientation and mentoring programs; and

26 WHEREAS, Iowa's proportion of older adults in the
27 population exceeds that of the United States as a
28 whole, and Iowa's 19.91 percentage of persons aged 60

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1 years or older ranks fourth in the nation; and

2 WHEREAS, the health requirements of older Iowans,
3 and all Iowa citizens, will continue, and likely
4 increase, the need for trained nursing professionals;
5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
7 That the General Assembly needs to address the issue
8 of nursing shortages, by considering the creation of
9 state-based nursing workforce centers to track,
10 analyze, and make recommendations on the nursing
11 workforce within the state, and by increasing nursing
12 education dollars to increase the capacity of the
13 schools of nursing and recruit more students into
14 nursing.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That nurses are recognized
16 as an integral part of the health care profession, and
17 that every effort must be made to prevent a shortage
18 of nurses, which would adversely affect every citizen
19 of Iowa.

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