

5/2/01 Do Pass
5-5/3/01 Adopted

FILED MAY 2 2001

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY JOHNSON

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3 A Resolution supporting a women's health care platform
4 that recognizes and calls for the elimination of
5 inequities in the health prevention and treatment of
6 women in Iowa.

7 WHEREAS, women are metabolically, hormonally, and
8 physiologically unique, and have different patterns of
9 health and disease than do men, and some diseases are
10 more common in women than in men; and

11 WHEREAS, women are more likely to suffer from
12 chronic diseases, develop rheumatoid arthritis, and
13 suffer from depression than are men; and

14 WHEREAS, women are less often referred for
15 diagnostic tests and less often treated for heart
16 disease as compared to men; and

17 WHEREAS, women outnumber men three to one in long-
18 term care facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, women are much more likely to provide
20 health care to family members and to make health care
21 decisions and spend two of every three health care
22 dollars; and

23 WHEREAS, there is evidence that women are medically
24 undertreated compared to men, and are underrepresented
25 in health studies; and

26 WHEREAS, while there has been some national
27 attention given to women's health care issues, and
28 some legislative activity by the United States
29 Congress on women's health care access issues, there
30 remains little change in vitally important preventive

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1 health care and treatment issues related to women; and
2 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa needs to work toward
3 providing women with equal access to quality health
4 care, by providing women with state-of-the-art medical
5 advances and technology, and timely diagnosis and
6 treatment programs; by increasing the number of women
7 covered by comprehensive health care insurance; by
8 encouraging unimpeded access to women's specialty
9 health providers; and by providing improved
10 communications between health care providers and women
11 patients; and

12 WHEREAS, Iowa can support women's health issues by
13 continuing to expand state screening programs targeted
14 at lower-income women to include a full range of known
15 risk factors; increasing government private research
16 on women's health issues; expanding medical and
17 nursing school curricula in the areas of women's
18 health and educating care providers about gender
19 biology; supporting public education campaigns to
20 increase women's awareness about their unique health
21 risks and how to obtain the best care available; and
22 conducting public health campaigns via state and local
23 departments of public health with private-sector
24 partners to focus on key women's preventive health
25 issues; and

26 WHEREAS, in a recent survey of voters, almost 80
27 percent of women and 60 percent of men favored a
28 women's health care platform that supports relevant
29 health care, research, and education for women; and

30 WHEREAS, nine out of 10 men and women agree that

1 women have the right to quality health care treatment
2 and access to the latest technologies and appropriate
3 diagnostic tests; NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate urges
5 the state agencies, regents institutions, recipients
6 of state grants or funding, and the private sector to
7 take appropriate action to achieve improved and equal
8 access for women to quality health care.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate commends
10 the organization, Women in Government, for its
11 leadership and enterprise in bringing to the forefront
12 the urgent need, and proposing meaningful steps that
13 can be taken, to attain access for women to quality
14 health care and medical technologies, and to educate
15 researchers about gender differences.

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