

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY FORD

A Resolution supporting public policy changes so that substance abuse treatment services have parity with other services provided under public and private health coverage.

WHEREAS, addictions to alcohol and other legal and illegal substances are recognized by the American Medical Association as chronic medical conditions just as are asthma, hypertension, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, health insurance benefits for substance abuse treatment do not have parity with the benefits available for treatment of other chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, studies show that the treatment approaches used for substance abuse are as effective as, or more effective than, the treatment approaches used for other chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the need to address substance abuse is especially significant to minorities; for example, survey results from 2000 suggest that 6.4 percent of African-Americans age 12 and up used an illegal drug during the previous 30 days, and in 1999, non-Hispanic African-Americans made up 12 percent of the nation's general population but accounted for 23 percent of admissions to publicly funded substance abuse treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, research by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services indicates that

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1 requiring comprehensive parity for substance abuse
2 treatment would increase family health insurance
3 premiums by approximately one percent annually; NOW
4 THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
6 That implementation of comprehensive parity for
7 substance abuse treatment is a public policy priority
8 for the State of Iowa; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That comprehensive parity
10 should be achieved for private coverage by prohibiting
11 individual and group health insurance policies from
12 having terms, conditions, or benefit levels that place
13 a greater financial burden on an insured for provision
14 of substance abuse treatment than for treatment of a
15 medical, surgical, or other physical condition; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That comprehensive parity
17 should be achieved for public coverage by prohibiting
18 Medicare, Medicaid, and other government-funded or
19 government-sponsored health coverage programs from
20 having terms, conditions, or benefit levels that place
21 a greater financial burden on an insured for provision
22 of substance abuse treatment than for treatment of a
23 medical, surgical, or other physical condition; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
25 House of Representatives shall transmit an official
26 copy of this resolution to the President of the United
27 States and the members of Iowa's congressional
28 delegation.

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