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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY KINZER, BELL, BRAND, and MYERS

A Concurrent Resolution providing for the formation of a committee by the Legislative Council to evaluate the creation of a caregiver recruitment and retention pilot program.

WHEREAS, a significant number of citizens of the state of Iowa require some form of nursing assistance, home care assistance, or some other form of direct patient care; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of citizens requiring such assistance, and all the citizens of the state of Iowa, that a caregiver workforce of the highest possible quality is maintained; and

WHEREAS, the prospect of achieving and retaining a high quality caregiver workforce will be substantially increased through efforts to provide training, establish and maintain educational standards of excellence, and facilitate enhanced career opportunities; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Council shall appoint a working committee to evaluate the creation of a caregiver recruitment and retention pilot program to establish and streamline educational standards of excellence for nursing assistants, home care aides, patient care technicians, and other caregivers who provide direct care for elders, and to develop the appropriate educational programming to ensure that these standards are met and a quality caregiver

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1 workforce is available. The program shall involve the
2 development of career opportunities for caregivers,
3 the establishment of educational standards of
4 excellence for direct caregivers in all disciplines to
5 replace the minimal educational standards currently
6 relied on in each discipline, and the streamlining of
7 the educational standards to facilitate cross-
8 training. Goals of the program shall be to:

- 9 1. Increase accessibility of educational
10 programming for direct caregivers, and offer
11 educational programming to family and other informal
12 caregivers.
- 13 2. Develop or modify specialization certification
14 program curriculum.
- 15 3. Examine the feasibility of educational
16 programming for volunteers and care review committee
17 members.
- 18 4. Focus recruitment efforts relating to family
19 investment plan recipients on a career of caregiving.
- 20 5. Serve as a means of abuse prevention and
21 intervention by providing ongoing comprehensive
22 training on abuse and how to care for abused patients
23 and residents.

24 The working committee shall be composed of members
25 of both political parties and both houses of the
26 General Assembly, and shall also include
27 representatives from the department of elder affairs,
28 including the nursing home ombudsman, and nursing
29 assistants, home care aides, patient care technicians,
30 and other caregivers. The committee shall assemble a

1 consortium of educators to establish and streamline
2 educational standards, consider which county or
3 counties in which to launch a pilot program, survey
4 direct caregivers to determine educational needs, and
5 evaluate the development of an educational programming
6 pilot project to be delivered through the fiber optics
7 network in a designated location.

8 The committee shall be staffed by the Legislative
9 Service Bureau and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. The
10 committee shall begin its deliberations following the
11 adjournment of the 1997 Session of the General
12 Assembly and shall issue its report of recommendations
13 for establishment of a pilot program by January 1,
14 1998.

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