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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REDWINE and KIBBIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Iowa's proportion of older adults in the population exceeds that of the United States as a 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 SENATE, That the General  
7 Assembly needs to address the issue of nursing  
8 shortages, by considering the creation of state-based  
9 nursing workforce centers to track, analyze, and make  
10 recommendations on the nursing workforce within the  
11 state, and by increasing nursing education dollars to  
12 increase the capacity of the schools of nursing and  
13 recruit more students into nursing.

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

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