

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

2 BY HUSER

3 A Concurrent Resolution expressing the support of the
4 general assembly for Iowa's adoption subsidy program
5 and encouraging the legislative council to authorize
6 an independent assessment of the program's value to
7 the state.

8 WHEREAS, Iowa's adoption subsidy program provides
9 financial support to adoptive parents who provide care
10 and a permanent home for hard-to-place children,
11 including minority children, older children, sibling
12 groups, and children with mental or physical
13 disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, the program currently serves approximately
15 6,000 children; and

16 WHEREAS, providing a child who is in foster care
17 with an adoptive home can create for the child a
18 permanent, stable, and loving environment; and

19 WHEREAS, adoptive parents sign an adoption
20 agreement with the department of human services in
21 which the department agrees to provide specified
22 levels of support, including child care, necessary
23 therapeutic services, medical equipment, and other
24 support to assist the adoptive parents to accommodate
25 the special needs of their adoptive children; and

26 WHEREAS, Iowa's adoption subsidy program has been
27 highly successful in finding a permanent home for
28 hard-to-place adoptive children who have special
29 needs, resulting in a 56 percent increase in the
30 number of children qualifying for a special needs

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1 adoption subsidy from fiscal year 1998-1999 through
2 fiscal year 2002-2003; and

3 WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that the
4 program is currently subject to increased scrutiny due
5 to the budget growth resulting from the program's
6 increased participation and success; and

7 WHEREAS, the department convened an advisory group
8 to consider ways to control rising program costs and
9 based upon the advisory group's recommendations has
10 proposed administrative rule changes to reduce the
11 overall subsidy outlays; and

12 WHEREAS, in November 2003, the administrative rules
13 review committee delayed the proposed rules changes;

14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
16 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa general assembly
17 expresses strong support for the adoption subsidy
18 program and applauds the department of human services'
19 efforts to make the program a success; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislative
21 council is encouraged to authorize an independent
22 assessment of the adoption subsidy program's value to
23 the state, to identify the program's strengths and
24 needs, and to identify budgetary priorities that will
25 enable the state to continue supporting the adoption
26 of hard-to-place children; that the assessment include
27 a full inventory of program costs and benefits, and
28 identify the impact of expected program growth and the
29 savings in other programs and services resulting from
30 the existence of the adoption subsidy program; that

1 the legislative council is encouraged to seek
2 assistance in conducting the assessment from an
3 independent consultant or another entity with
4 expertise in child welfare issues; that the
5 legislative council is encouraged to seek financial
6 support for the assessment costs from a private
7 foundation or other appropriate sources; and that the
8 assessment should be completed by December 15, 2004;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if private funding for
11 the assessment cannot be secured, the legislative
12 council is encouraged to create a legislative interim
13 study committee to address the program needs.

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