

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 125

BY FALLON

A Concurrent Resolution designating April 7, 2004, as
Iowa Homeless Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, the Iowa Homelessness Study conducted in
2001 concluded that over 18,000 homeless people, with
4,300 in Des Moines alone, and over 7,000 near-
homeless people live in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, nearly 60 percent of those homeless and
near-homeless people are children, over 11 percent of
those homeless and near-homeless people are less than
five years of age, and unaccompanied children
represent more than 10 percent of the homeless
population; and

WHEREAS, 82 percent of the homeless and 90 percent
of the near-homeless single adult households with
children are headed by a woman; and

WHEREAS, family breakup, potential utility
disconnection, and job loss are consistently the
leading causes of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's homeless and near-homeless people
exist in rural and urban areas, and in low-poverty and
high-poverty communities; and

WHEREAS, the poverty level population is defined by
the federal poverty line, \$16,588 in income for a
family of four, which equates roughly to between 30
percent and 50 percent of the median income in most
Iowa counties; and

WHEREAS, the lack of living wage jobs and
affordable housing are reported as the most

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1 significant barriers to resolving homelessness in
2 every type of community, and long-term economic
3 solutions that create living wage jobs and affordable
4 housing seem necessary to solve this crisis; NOW
5 THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
7 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly
8 designates Wednesday, April 7, 2004, as Iowa Homeless
9 Awareness Day, and invites the citizens of Iowa to
10 increase their awareness of the causes of homelessness
11 and seek to implement solutions to homelessness; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
13 requests that the Governor issue a proclamation
14 calling upon the people of Iowa to observe Iowa
15 Homeless Awareness Day with appropriate programs,
16 ceremonies, and activities.

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