

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY FORD and UPMEYER

A Resolution supporting the development of a medical school curriculum that ensures physicians receive training relating to racial and cultural bias.

WHEREAS, multicultural Americans frequently report experiencing a different level of medical treatment and care, regardless of their financial ability to provide payment, in connection with recommended treatment therapies; and

WHEREAS, this different level of medical treatment and care may contribute to the fact that the health status of multicultural Americans is significantly worse than that of other population groups; and

WHEREAS, an Institute of Medicine report in March 2002 concluded that population groups identified as racial and ethnic minorities received lower quality health care than did groups identified as Caucasian, including a reduced likelihood of undergoing bypass surgery and receiving kidney dialysis or organ transplants; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has adopted a policy of zero tolerance toward racially or culturally based disparities in health care, has recommended the development of assessment tools to enable individual physicians and groups of physicians to identify and act on racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and has recommended that its membership regularly monitor and report on progress being made to address racial and ethnic disparities in

HR 120

1 health care; and

2 WHEREAS, the percentage of the population that is  
3 comprised of groups identified as racial and ethnic  
4 minorities is growing at a much faster rate than the  
5 percentage of such minorities represented in the  
6 physician workforce; and

7 WHEREAS, bias in health care treatment needs to be  
8 identified, expressly addressed, and eliminated; NOW  
9 THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
11 That the Iowa House of Representatives calls upon the  
12 State Board of Regents, the administration and  
13 governing board of the University of Iowa, the  
14 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, the faculty  
15 and staff of the University of Iowa College of  
16 Medicine, the administration and governing board of  
17 Des Moines University -- Osteopathic Medical Center,  
18 and the faculty and staff of the College of  
19 Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery of Des Moines  
20 University, to develop a medical school curriculum  
21 that ensures physicians receive explicit training in  
22 the problems of racial bias and methods, practices,  
23 and procedures to ensure that treatment and therapies  
24 are recommended equitably regardless of racial or  
25 cultural identity; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
27 Resolution be sent to each of the aforementioned  
28 administrative staffs, boards, and faculties, to the  
29 Iowa Department of Public Health, and to the members  
30 of Iowa's congressional delegation.