

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY HEATON, FOEGE, SMITH, and UPMEYER

A Resolution to recognize May 2004 as Hepatitis C

Awareness and Education Month and to urge greater public awareness and education regarding hepatitis C.

WHEREAS, hepatitis C is the most common chronic bloodborne viral infection in the United States, infecting 3.9 million people nationwide and an additional 25,000 people each year, and is the leading cause of liver disease, elevating the risk of chronic liver disease, liver cancer, and other hepatitis C virus-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, sixty-seven percent of hepatitis C-infected persons are chronically infected and approximately 8,000 to 10,000 people in the United States die each year from conditions caused by hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, there were 52,943 estimated cases of hepatitis C in Iowa according to 2001 census data with an additional 3,946 cases identified in Iowa between January 1, 2002, and August 31, 2003; and

WHEREAS, infected individuals who are unaware that they are infected are unlikely to take precautions to prevent the spread or exacerbation of their infection; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a vaccine for hepatitis C, emphasis must be placed on other means of awareness and prevention of this disease, including education of persons at high risk for hepatitis C as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as

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1 well as peace officers, fire fighters, health care
2 workers, and the general public; NOW THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
4 That the members of the House of Representatives
5 recognize May 2004 as Hepatitis C Awareness and
6 Education Month; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa Department of
8 Public Health provide to the General Assembly the
9 findings of the State Advisory Committee on Hepatitis,
10 including recommendations for programs and policies
11 related to hepatitis C awareness, education,
12 screening, prevention, and treatment, by December 31,
13 2004; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, the
15 Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send
16 a copy of this Resolution to the Iowa Department of
17 Public Health.

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