

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46
2 BY HEDDENS, WATTS, GRANZOW, HUTTER, SWAIM,
3 GREIMANN, WISE, BOGGESS, TJEPKES, SMITH,
4 THOMAS, GASKILL, DE BOEF, WHITAKER, REASONER,
5 CONNORS, WENDT, ROBERTS, KURTENBACH, and STRUYK
6 A Resolution relating to support of Best Buddies Iowa
7 and urging continued federal funding of the program.
8 WHEREAS, there are more than 7.5 million people
9 with intellectual disabilities in the United States
10 and as many as 250 million worldwide; and
11 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual disabilities
12 often experience isolation and exclusion from
13 community activities because of limited opportunities
14 to associate with persons other than their immediate
15 family and paid workers; and
16 WHEREAS, Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization
17 dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with
18 intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities
19 for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment;
20 and
21 WHEREAS, Best Buddies has grown from one chapter on
22 one college campus to a vibrant, international
23 organization involving participants annually on more
24 than 750 middle school, high school, and college
25 campuses in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Egypt,
26 Greece, Ireland, and Sweden; and
27 WHEREAS, Best Buddies has touched the lives of over
28 175,000 individuals in its 13-year existence; and
29 WHEREAS, Best Buddies Iowa currently serves nine
30 college chapters and nine high school chapters within

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1 our state and has a long-term goal of involving all
2 schools within Iowa in its mission to bring
3 friendships to individuals with intellectual
4 disabilities; NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
6 That the Iowa House of Representatives appreciates the
7 work that Best Buddies Iowa performs and urges the
8 federal government to continue to fund this program;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa House of
11 Representatives encourages state agencies, county
12 central points of coordination, education providers,
13 and area education agencies to work with Best Buddies
14 Iowa to find additional funding for a middle school
15 program and to further expand its current programs
16 into additional communities; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
18 Resolution be sent by the Chief Clerk of the House of
19 Representatives to the President of the United States,
20 the President of the Senate of the United States, the
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives;
22 the majority and minority leaders of the United States
23 Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the
24 United States House of Representatives, and each
25 member of Iowa's congressional delegation.

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