

# House Resolution 44 - Introduced

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1 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_  
1 2 BY ABDUL=SAMAD, SMITH, WESSEL=KROESCHELL, THEDE,  
1 3 UPMeyer, L. MILLER, HEDDENS, and HEATON  
1 4 A Resolution expressing support for improved adolescent  
1 5 health.  
1 6 WHEREAS, adolescence is a critical time to develop  
1 7 positive habits and skills that can lead to healthy  
1 8 lifestyles and behavior over an individual's lifetime;  
1 9 and  
1 10 WHEREAS, many adolescents and young adults struggle  
1 11 to adopt behaviors that could decrease their risk of  
1 12 sustaining serious injuries or developing chronic  
1 13 diseases in adulthood == behaviors such as avoiding  
1 14 dangerous situations and taking appropriate safety  
1 15 precautions, eating nutritiously, engaging in physical  
1 16 activity, avoiding tobacco and drugs, and choosing not  
1 17 to abuse alcohol; and  
1 18 WHEREAS, environmental factors such as family, peer  
1 19 group, school, and community characteristics also  
1 20 contribute to the challenges that adolescents face;  
1 21 and  
1 22 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine and the National  
1 23 Research Council have concluded that "prevention,  
1 24 early intervention and timely treatment improve health  
1 25 status for adolescents and prepare them for healthy  
1 26 adulthood; such services also decrease the incidence  
1 27 of many chronic diseases in adulthood"; and  
1 28 WHEREAS, 1.4 million Iowans are already overweight  
1 29 or obese, a sample of Iowa children found that nearly  
1 30 20 percent were at risk for being overweight and more  
2 1 than 18 percent are already overweight, only 16.6  
2 2 percent of 9th through 12th grade students reported  
2 3 eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables  
2 4 daily, and total annual health care costs attributable  
2 5 to adult obesity in Iowa are estimated at \$783  
2 6 million; and  
2 7 WHEREAS, type 2 diabetes, which is linked to  
2 8 obesity and physical inactivity and most often appears  
2 9 in people older than 40, is now being found in younger  
2 10 people and even in children and teenagers; and  
2 11 WHEREAS, the leading causes of death for Iowans  
2 12 ages 15=24 are motor vehicle crashes and suicide, and  
2 13 this age group also has the highest rate of  
2 14 hospitalizations and emergency department visits for  
2 15 these injuries; and  
2 16 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and  
2 17 Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
2 18 Services Administration recommends that adolescents be  
2 19 screened for alcohol use and depression at regular  
2 20 health screenings so they can be referred for  
2 21 appropriate services; and  
2 22 WHEREAS, the national Advisory Committee on  
2 23 Immunization Practices, American Academy of  
2 24 Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and  
2 25 the American Medical Association recommend a routine  
2 26 health care visit for adolescents aged 11=12 to  
2 27 receive recommended immunizations and other  
2 28 evidence=based preventive health care services; and  
2 29 WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control's National  
3 30 Immunization Survey found that immunization coverage  
3 1 levels among adolescents in 2006 did not meet the  
3 2 Healthy People 2010 objective of 90 percent coverage  
3 3 for 13=15 year olds for any of the vaccines measured;  
3 4 and  
3 5 WHEREAS, the Society for Adolescent Medicine has  
3 6 found that adolescent well visits are one of the best  
3 7 tools of preventive care to ensure continued health  
3 8 and safety from childhood to adulthood and that  
3 9 children and adolescents who regularly visit a primary  
3 10 care physician are less likely to have emergency room  
3 11 visits and preventable injuries or hospitalizations;  
3 12 and

3 13 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and  
3 14 Human Services' Health Resources and Services  
3 15 Administration has developed, in conjunction with the  
3 16 American Academy of Pediatrics, the Bright Futures  
3 17 Initiative, which provides a set of guidelines  
3 18 including recommendations on immunizations and routine  
3 19 health screenings for adolescents; and  
3 20 WHEREAS, because adolescents remain under the  
3 21 guardianship of their parents, parental awareness of  
3 22 the need for an adolescent well visit plays an  
3 23 enormous role in the incidence of adolescent well  
3 24 visits; NOW THEREFORE,  
3 25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
3 26 That the House of Representatatives encourages the  
3 27 Department of Public Health to educate parents on the  
3 28 importance of an adolescent well physical to prevent  
3 29 chronic diseases, avoid injury, appropriately  
3 30 intervene to better treat chronic disease, and update  
4 1 immunizations.  
4 2 LSB 2702HH 83  
4 3 jr/nh/14.2