

House Resolution 24 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY WINCKLER, ABDUL-SAMAD, LENSING, ISENHART, GAINES,
WESSEL-KROESCHELL, GASKILL, M. SMITH, MASCHER,
HUNTER, THEDE, T. TAYLOR, HEDDENS, KRESSIG,
KAJTAZOVIC, HANSON, KEARNS, STECKMAN, WENTHE,
PETERSEN, OLDSON, KELLEY, SWAIM, WITTNEBEN, WOLFE,
MUHLBAUER, and BERRY

1 A Resolution to urge the Governor to accept the
2 invitation to join the Alliance of States for
3 Complete College America.

4 WHEREAS, by the end of this decade more than 60
5 percent of jobs will require college education, and
6 today only 46 percent of Iowa's adults aged 25-34 have
7 a college degree; and

8 WHEREAS, too many students get lost along the way
9 to attaining an undergraduate degree, hindering Iowa's
10 economic growth; and

11 WHEREAS, the graduation rates for Iowa's community
12 colleges vary widely by institution, with rates between
13 19 percent and 61 percent of the students attending
14 Iowa's community colleges completing certificate
15 programs or associate degrees within 150 percent of
16 normal program time; and

17 WHEREAS, 65 percent of white undergraduate students
18 at Iowa's public universities graduate in six years,
19 but only 35 percent of African-American students and 50
20 percent of Hispanic students graduate in six years; and

21 WHEREAS, Iowa must raise completion rates overall
22 and place extra focus on closing the college attainment
23 gap for underrepresented students; and

1 WHEREAS, Complete College America was established
2 in 2009 as a national nonprofit organization working
3 to significantly increase the number of Americans with
4 a college degree or credential of value and to close
5 attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented
6 populations; and

7 WHEREAS, Complete College America was founded to
8 focus solely on dramatically increasing the nation's
9 college completion rate through state policy change,
10 and to build consensus for change among state leaders,
11 higher education, and the national education policy
12 community; and

13 WHEREAS, governors from 24 other states have
14 accepted the invitation to join the Alliance of
15 States for Complete College America by pledging to
16 make college completion a top priority, and to set
17 completion goals, develop action plans, move key policy
18 levers, and to collect and report common measures of
19 progress; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
21 the Governor is urged to accept the invitation to join
22 the Alliance of States for Complete College America and
23 to develop and deploy innovative, statewide strategies
24 designed to substantially increase college completion.