

House Resolution 55 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY UPMEYER and H. MILLER

1 A Resolution requesting that the Department of Human
2 Services and the Department of Public Health study
3 the management and treatment of atrial fibrillation.

4 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation (AFib) is the most
5 common serious heart rhythm disorder and causes 15
6 percent of all strokes in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation affects more than 2.3
8 million Americans, which number is expected to more
9 than double to 5.6 million Americans by 2050; and

10 WHEREAS, one in four people aged 40 years or older
11 develop atrial fibrillation during their lifetime; and

12 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation causes the heart to
13 beat irregularly or out of rhythm, with the result that
14 people with AFib are nearly five times more likely to
15 have a stroke than someone without the condition; and

16 WHEREAS, AFib-related strokes are about twice as
17 likely to be fatal and about twice as likely to be
18 severely disabling than strokes that are not related
19 to AFib; and

20 WHEREAS, three out of four AFib-related strokes can
21 be prevented, but many patients are not aware of their
22 risk and do not take action to prevent a stroke; and

23 WHEREAS, the estimated direct medical costs of
24 strokes for 2007 totalled \$25.2 billion, including
25 hospital outpatient or office-based provider visits,
26 hospital inpatient stays, emergency room visits,
27 prescribed medicines, and home health care; and

28 WHEREAS, appropriate stroke prevention measures for

1 persons affected by AFib can effectively reduce the
2 overall financial burden of the illness within public
3 assistance programs such as Medicaid and Medicare; and

4 WHEREAS, reducing the risk of stroke related to AFib
5 may maintain self-sufficiency on the part of patients
6 cared for within public assistance programs; NOW
7 THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
9 That the House of Representatives requests that the
10 Department of Human Services and the Department of
11 Public Health study the feasibility of implementing
12 an audit program to assess chronic disease management
13 of stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation patients
14 using available public and private sources of funding
15 in an effort to identify opportunities to reduce the
16 financial and clinical burden of AFib-related strokes
17 on Iowa, and on public assistance programs including
18 Medicare and Medicaid; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That at the conclusion of
20 the study, a report of findings and recommendations
21 be prepared and provided to the General Assembly so
22 that it can evaluate the effectiveness of the current
23 quality of care within public assistance programs
24 including Medicare and Medicaid.