

House Resolution 57 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY PAULSEN, BRANDENBURG, DRAKE, FORRISTALL, GARRETT,
LOFGREN, SCHULTE, WORTHAN, JORGENSEN, SODERBERG,
ANDERSON, SANDS, COWNIE, PAUSTIAN, S. OLSON, MOORE,
HAGER, WINDSCHITL, DOLECHECK, DEYOE, J. SMITH,
BALTIMORE, HEIN, VANDER LINDEN, UPMEYER, TJEPKES,
PETTENGILL, RAYHONS, DE BOEF, SWEENEY, CHAMBERS,
HUSEMAN, WATTS, BAUDLER, KOESTER, IVERSON, ARNOLD,
RASMUSSEN, HANUSA, HAGENOW, FRY, J. TAYLOR, ROGERS,
ALONS, SCHULTZ, SHAW, and PEARSON

1 A Resolution related to the naming of public buildings
2 and institutions.

3 WHEREAS, Iowa has a long tradition of naming public
4 buildings and institutions to honor the life, public
5 service, and memory of distinguished political leaders
6 or notable Iowans; and

7 WHEREAS, the Hoover, Grimes, Wallace, and Ola
8 Babcock Miller state office buildings, and Jack Trice
9 Stadium provide examples of this long-established
10 precedent; and

11 WHEREAS, traditionally, this honor comes as the
12 final capstone to a distinguished career and is often
13 accorded as a posthumous honor; and

14 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has departed from
15 this principle by naming an Iowa State University
16 public policy institute after United States Senator Tom
17 Harkin; and

18 WHEREAS, while a public official may be
19 well-deserving of this honor, it is a departure from
20 this state's tradition while the official is serving in

1 a state or federal elected position; and

2 WHEREAS, this honor could provide an unfair
3 political advantage to an active political leader
4 who could use the honor as part of future political
5 campaigns; and

6 WHEREAS, this departure from past practice may usher
7 in a new paradigm where buildings and institutions are
8 named based on what funding a particular name might
9 generate; NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
11 the House of Representatives respectfully requests that
12 the Board of Regents reconsider and reverse its action
13 naming an Iowa State University public policy institute
14 after United States Senator Tom Harkin, and reserve
15 that honor until the Senator has retired from public
16 office; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
18 Representatives affirms that no public building or
19 institution should be named after a state or federal
20 elected official until that official has retired from
21 public life.