

House Joint Resolution 12 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa to specify that the right to life is
3 the paramount and most fundamental right of every person,
4 and that personhood applies to all human beings from the
5 beginning of their biological development.
6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of
4 Iowa, as amended by amendment number 1 of the Amendments of
5 1998, is amended to read as follows:

6 **Rights of persons.** SECTION 1.

7 1. All men and women are, by nature, free and equal, and
8 have certain inalienable rights — among which are those of
9 enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing
10 and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety and
11 happiness.

12 2. The right to life is the paramount and most fundamental
13 right of every person.

14 3. With respect to the fundamental and inalienable rights
15 of all persons guaranteed in this constitution, the word
16 “person” applies to all human beings, irrespective of age,
17 health, function, physical or mental dependency, or method of
18 reproduction, whether in vivo or in vitro, from the beginning
19 of their biological development, including the single-cell
20 human zygote.

21 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed
22 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred
23 to the general assembly to be chosen at the next general
24 election for members of the general assembly, and the secretary
25 of state is directed to cause the proposed amendment to be
26 published for three consecutive months previous to the date of
27 that election as provided by law.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
30 Constitution of the State of Iowa specifying that the
31 right to life is the paramount and most fundamental right
32 of every person, and that with respect to the fundamental
33 and inalienable rights of all persons guaranteed in the
34 constitution, the word “person” applies to all human beings,
35 irrespective of age, health, function, physical or mental

1 dependency, or method of reproduction, whether in vivo or in
2 vitro, from the beginning of their biological development,
3 including the single-cell human zygote.

4 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
5 general assembly for adoption, before being submitted to the
6 electorate for ratification.