

House Resolution 21 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY KELLEY

1 A Resolution supporting the use of drug courts in the
2 criminal justice system.

3 WHEREAS, drug courts provide a proven budget
4 solution that benefit all facets of society; and

5 WHEREAS, drug courts are an essential component
6 of the criminal justice system and save vast criminal
7 justice and human services resources, support family
8 preservation, and keep individuals out of jail and
9 engaged in their communities as productive, tax-paying
10 citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, drug courts are an effective tool in the
12 human services and criminal justice system for saving
13 money, preserving families intact, reducing crime, and
14 serving veterans; and

15 WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program
16 evaluations and at least four meta-analytic
17 studies have yielded definitive evidence that
18 drug courts significantly improve substance-abuse
19 treatment outcomes, promote permanency for children,
20 substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at
21 less expense than any other strategy; and

22 WHEREAS, drug courts facilitate communitywide
23 partnerships, bringing together public safety, human
24 services and public health professionals, and the
25 court system in the fight against drug abuse and
26 criminality; and

27 WHEREAS, the drug court movement in the United
28 States has grown from the 12 original drug courts in

1 1994, to over 2,600 operational drug courts today; and

2 WHEREAS, there are currently at least 35 adult drug
3 court, juvenile drug court, and family treatment court
4 programs in the state of Iowa; and

5 WHEREAS, drug courts demonstrate that when one
6 person rises out of drugs and crime, all persons
7 benefit; and

8 WHEREAS, the time has come to put a drug court
9 within reach of every eligible person in need; NOW

10 THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
12 That the House of Representatives declares that the
13 month of May 2013 be established as a Drug Court Month,
14 recognizing the significant contributions drug courts
15 have made toward reducing substance abuse, crime, and
16 recidivism while saving valuable resources.