

House Resolution 33 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY H. MILLER, MEYER, MOMMSEN, GUSTAFSON, STAED,
BRANHAGEN, HANSON, WINCKLER, STUTSMAN, DUNKEL,
ISENHART, THEDE, MASCHER, RUNNING-MARQUARDT,
WOLFE, LENSING, GASKILL, SMITH, STECKMAN, PRICHARD,
OURTH, HEDDENS, BEARINGER, KEARNS, ANDERSON,
BENNETT, McCONKEY, DAWSON, FORBES, BROWN-POWERS,
GAINES, KELLEY, COHOON, LYKAM, HUNTER, OLSON,
OLDSON, KRESSIG, DRAKE, BERRY, JACOBY, ABDUL-SAMAD,
MAXWELL, and HANUSA

1 A Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the
2 Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965.

3 WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, University of Iowa
4 College of Law Professor Arthur Bonfield worked to
5 persuade Iowa lawmakers that new, comprehensive state
6 civil rights legislation was necessary and drafted a
7 civil rights bill in December 1964 for introduction in
8 the Iowa General Assembly the following year; and

9 WHEREAS, the bill was transmitted to Donald Boles, a
10 member of the Governor's Commission on Human Relations,
11 who successfully enlisted the support of Governor
12 Harold Hughes, who was instrumental in having the bill
13 introduced in the legislature; and

14 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Senator John Ely
15 and Representative Roy Gillette, the Iowa General
16 Assembly passed unanimously the Iowa Civil Rights Act
17 of 1965, which Governor Hughes signed into law on April
18 29, 1965; and

19 WHEREAS, effective May 6, 1965, the Iowa Civil
20 Rights Act of 1965 prohibited discrimination in the

1 areas of employment and public accommodations on the
2 basis of several protected personal characteristics
3 including race, color, national origin, creed, or
4 religion, as well as retaliation against those who
5 sought to enforce their rights or aided others in doing
6 so; and

7 WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly and the Governor,
8 by enacting the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965,
9 created and empowered the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
10 to enforce the Act's provisions and eliminate
11 discrimination in the State of Iowa; and

12 WHEREAS, the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965 has been
13 amended to prohibit discrimination in the areas of
14 housing, credit, and education and to add age, sex,
15 sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status,
16 familial status, and disability as protected personal
17 characteristics; and

18 WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of the Iowa Civil
19 Rights Act of 1965 truly represents 50 years of a
20 higher quality of life through equality in the State
21 of Iowa; and

22 WHEREAS, great strides have been made in eliminating
23 discrimination in Iowa, but more work and even greater
24 strides must be made to ensure that all workplaces,
25 educational settings, and places of accommodation and
26 housing are free of unlawful discrimination; and

27 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives should
28 celebrate and inform all Iowans of the history of
29 the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965 and reinvigorate
30 Iowans to continue to fight to end discrimination; NOW

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1 THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
3 the House of Representatives honors and recognizes the
4 importance of the adoption of the Iowa Civil Rights Act
5 of 1965 in ensuring equality and freedom in this state
6 and recognizes and commends all of those individuals
7 who made that possible.