

Senate Resolution 30 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY BISIGNANO

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
21 areas of employment and public accommodations on the
22 basis of several protected personal characteristics
23 including race, color, national origin, creed, or
24 religion, as well as retaliation against those who
25 sought to enforce their rights or aided others in doing
26 so; and

27 WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly and the Governor,
28 by enacting the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965,

1 created and empowered the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
2 to enforce the Act's provisions and eliminate
3 discrimination in the State of Iowa; and

4 WHEREAS, the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965 has been
5 amended to prohibit discrimination in the areas of
6 housing, credit, and education and to add age, sex,
7 sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status,
8 familial status, and disability as protected personal
9 characteristics; and

10 WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of the Iowa Civil
11 Rights Act of 1965 truly represents 50 years of a
12 higher quality of life through equality in the State
13 of Iowa; and

14 WHEREAS, great strides have been made in eliminating
15 discrimination in Iowa, but more work and even greater
16 strides must be made to ensure that all workplaces,
17 educational settings, and places of accommodation and
18 housing are free of unlawful discrimination; and

19 WHEREAS, the Senate should celebrate and inform all
20 Iowans of the history of the Iowa Civil Rights Act of
21 1965 and reinvigorate Iowans to continue to fight to
22 end discrimination; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate honors
24 and recognizes the importance of the adoption of the
25 Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965 in ensuring equality and
26 freedom in this state and recognizes and commends all
27 of those individuals who made that possible.