

Senate Resolution 4 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY MATHIS

1 A Resolution requesting the convening of a conference
2 of stakeholders to discuss the state's strategy for
3 addressing the increasing aging population in Iowa
4 and its effect on the state and Iowa's communities.

5 WHEREAS, according to the Iowa department on aging,
6 there are currently 514,215 Iowans age 65 and older,
7 constituting 16.4 percent of Iowa's total population,
8 and of this number 156,602 are living with at least one
9 disability that requires assistance; and

10 WHEREAS, the number of Iowans age 65 and older
11 continues to grow, with an estimated 677,266 Iowans age
12 65 and older projected to be living in Iowa by 2050,
13 constituting 20 percent of the population in each of 73
14 of Iowa's 99 counties and 19.7 percent of the state's
15 total population; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation,
17 spending on Medicare beneficiaries in the last year of
18 life accounts for about 25 percent of total Medicare
19 spending on beneficiaries age 65 and older; and

20 WHEREAS, according to 2018 Alzheimer's Association
21 data, the estimated lifetime cost of care for an
22 individual living with a dementia-related illness is
23 \$341,840; and

24 WHEREAS, in Iowa, 136,000 caregivers provided 154
25 million total hours valued at \$1.94 billion of unpaid
26 care in 2017, resulting in \$98 million in higher health
27 care costs of caregivers; and

28 WHEREAS, in Iowa, the 2018 Medicaid program costs of

1 caring for people with Alzheimer's was \$630 million, an
2 increase of 23.7 percent compared to 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, in Iowa, Medicare spending for people with
4 dementia in 2017 was \$16,931 per capita; NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
6 requests that the Department of Public Health and the
7 Department on Aging, in collaboration with the Iowa
8 Hospital Association, convene a stakeholder conference
9 at an independent, nonprofit, acute-care medical
10 center, originally established in 1900 and currently
11 housing a Family Caregivers Center, located in an
12 eastern Iowa metropolitan area with a population of
13 approximately 250,000;

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the stakeholder
15 conference convened shall conduct a statewide
16 discussion regarding the state's strategy to address
17 the increasing aging population in Iowa and its effect
18 on the state and Iowa's communities, including the
19 increasing prevalence of Alzheimer's and other forms of
20 dementia, and report findings and recommendations to
21 the Governor and the General Assembly by November 15,
22 2019.