

Senate Concurrent Resolution 104 - Introduced

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY JOCHUM, TRONE GARRIOTT, GIDDENS, QUIRMBACH, WAHLS,
BOLKCOM, RAGAN, MATHIS, BOULTON, LYKAM, PETERSEN,
CELSI, J. SMITH, KINNEY, DOTZLER, and T. TAYLOR

1 A Concurrent Resolution calling upon the President of
2 the United States, the United States Congress, the
3 Governor, the executive branch of Iowa, and the Iowa
4 General Assembly to work to improve communities by
5 bolstering the care workforce.

6 WHEREAS, Iowans value care and caregiving and
7 recognize that the ability to care for one another
8 is the connective tissue of society, forming and
9 strengthening familial and community relationships, and
10 enabling people to participate to their fullest extent
11 in growing the economy; and

12 WHEREAS, people providing care services have
13 been at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis and are
14 increasingly recognized as essential workers who are
15 vital to the state and country's infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, social and economic forces, including the
17 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have irreversibly changed
18 how our families live, work, and provide care; and

19 WHEREAS, Iowa, with its large senior population
20 and number of families where both parents are in the
21 workforce, has a particular need for a strong care
22 infrastructure to enable all Iowans to live in dignity
23 and contribute to their communities and economy; and

24 WHEREAS, the needs of people with disabilities
25 have long been overlooked or marginalized in policy
26 solutions, often resulting in the inability to access

1 vital services and support necessary for maintaining
2 independence and dignity; and

3 WHEREAS, the need for a care workforce, including
4 child care, home and community care, and long-term
5 care, will only grow over time and represents a source
6 of employment at a time when many current jobs are
7 subject to automation; and

8 WHEREAS, the care workforce requires public sector
9 recognition, support, and investment to fulfill its
10 roles, but for too long has been taken for granted
11 and seriously under-resourced, under-invested, and
12 under-compensated; and

13 WHEREAS, investing in the care workforce can be
14 a key community-building strategy in both urban and
15 rural communities for women and people of color, who
16 are currently the people most likely to serve care
17 workforce roles and are most subject to economic
18 disadvantage and the impacts of COVID-19; and

19 WHEREAS, the care workforce undergirds our economy
20 and is the work that makes all other work possible; NOW
21 THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly
24 of the State of Iowa calls upon the President of the
25 United States and the United States Congress to place
26 the strengthening of the care workforce as a high
27 priority and build upon actions in the American Rescue
28 Plan Act to allow for permanent increased funding of
29 the care workforce, including enhanced funding for home
30 and community-based services under Medicaid, funding

1 for community health care workers, funding to make
2 child care and preschool affordable to all families,
3 and funding to provide living wages for all those
4 providing care services; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
6 of the State of Iowa calls upon the President of
7 the United States and the United States Congress to
8 establish an essential worker bill of rights which
9 gives particular recognition to the ongoing and
10 post-pandemic needs of people in the care workforce as
11 they are essential to the economy; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
13 of the State of Iowa calls upon the President of the
14 United States and the United States Congress to work
15 to enact and implement necessary legislation for
16 a 21st century caregiving and education plan which
17 explicitly addresses the need for expanding access to a
18 broad array of long-term services and support in local
19 settings, ensures access to high-quality, affordable
20 child care and preschool, treats professional
21 caregivers and early childhood caregivers with respect
22 and dignity, gives care workforce personnel pay and
23 benefits they deserve, and provides for training and
24 career ladders to higher-paying jobs; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
26 of the State of Iowa calls upon the Governor and
27 the executive branch to collaborate with the General
28 Assembly to develop a state structure for effective
29 implementation of federal investments in the care
30 workforce and ensure strong oversight, transparency,

1 and accountability; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa General
3 Assembly calls upon the Governor and the executive
4 branch to ensure representation and participation of
5 those in the care workforce and the people they serve
6 in the implementation, planning, and oversight of
7 federal investments in the care workforce; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
9 of the State of Iowa calls upon the Governor and
10 the executive branch to collaborate with the General
11 Assembly to ensure that Iowa Workforce Development,
12 the Department of Education, the Department of Public
13 Health, the Department of Inspections and Appeals,
14 the Department of Human Services, and the Department
15 on Aging, including Future Ready Iowa, place critical
16 importance on the care workforce as a part of the
17 state's economy, report on their efforts to build
18 support for the care workforce, and take action with
19 assistance from the public to strengthen the care
20 workforce so it can provide the vast array of care
21 services Iowa will sorely need in the near future; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of
23 this resolution, the Secretary of the Senate shall
24 transmit copies of this resolution to the President
25 of the United States, the President of the United
26 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
27 House of Representatives, and each member of Iowa's
28 congressional delegation.