

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 556

Introduced by Pahls, 31.

WHEREAS, April is National Foot Health Awareness Month;
and

WHEREAS, in the United States, an estimated 23.6 million people, or 7.8 percent of the total population, are affected by diabetes; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) estimated that 103,000 Nebraskans age eighteen or older, or approximately 7.8 percent of the state's adult population, have been diagnosed with diabetes and that more than 63,000 additional Nebraska adults have been diagnosed with prediabetes; and

WHEREAS, the American Diabetes Association estimates that more than half of all people with diabetes suffer from diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN); and

WHEREAS, DPN is a serious condition that damages nerve fibers due to prolonged exposure to high amounts of glucose in the bloodstream; and

WHEREAS, DPN often causes intense pain frequently described as aching, tingling, burning, and numbness of the feet;
and

WHEREAS, serious foot problems most often result from

nerve damage, which can cause a loss of feeling in the feet; and

WHEREAS, although it can hurt, diabetic nerve damage can also lessen the ability to feel pain, heat, and cold, which means that diabetic patients may not feel a foot injury or even a stone in their shoe or a nail in their foot; and

WHEREAS, the rate of amputations in people with diabetes is ten times higher than for people without diabetes, and studies show that 60 percent of nontraumatic lower extremity amputations performed in Nebraska in 2006-07 were due to DPN; and

WHEREAS, DPN can occur whether a person has type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, or type 2 diabetes, which is typically adult-onset; and

WHEREAS, DPN accounts for more diabetes-related hospitalizations than any other complication, and in Nebraska 57,346 hospital stays in 2006-07, or 14.6 percent of all hospital stays, were attributed to diabetes complications at a cost of nearly \$1.5 billion, according to the BRFSS; and

WHEREAS, the medical cost of diabetes in the United States was \$116 billion in 2007, and in Nebraska, the medical and indirect costs of diabetes, much of it due to DPN, are over \$750 million per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature finds diabetic peripheral neuropathy to be a serious health issue affecting Nebraska that is deserving of attention from the Legislature.

2. That the Legislature finds that future legislation on the care and treatment of diabetes should include testing and

treatment of diabetic foot issues, including diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

3. That the Legislature supports public awareness efforts to inform people of the many dangers posed by diabetes and, in particular, what steps to take to delay or prevent diabetic peripheral neuropathy.