

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 41

Introduced by Campbell, 25; Baker, 30; Bloomfield, 17; Bolz, 29; Brasch, 16; Coash, 27; Cook, 13; Craighead, 6; Crawford, 45; Davis, 43; Ebke, 32; Friesen, 34; Garrett, 3; Gloor, 35; Groene, 42; Haar, 21; Hadley, 37; Hansen, 26; Harr, 8; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Hughes, 44; Johnson, 23; Kintner, 2; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; Krist, 10; Kuehn, 38; Larson, 40; Lindstrom, 18; McCollister, 20; McCoy, 39; Mello, 5; Morfeld, 46; Murante, 49; Nordquist, 7; Pansing Brooks, 28; Riepe, 12; Scheer, 19; Schilz, 47; Schnoor, 15; Schumacher, 22; Seiler, 33; Smith, 14; Stinner, 48; Sullivan, 41; Watermeier, 1; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 26, 2015

Committee: Health and Human Services

WHEREAS, the clinical skill, training, educational ability, and readiness of the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) has received national and international recognition for Nebraska as a leader in the fight against Ebola; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Department of Defense, and United States Department of Health and Human Services have identified the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit as one of the premier facilities for treating Ebola patients; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit has been called a national asset by the United States Department of State for its readiness and expertise to treat Ebola patients; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit has responded to hundreds of requests from hospitals across the nation seeking consultations, second opinions, and requests for assistance to train their staffs to help them better prepare to deal with Ebola and other highly infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit is recognized across the nation as the "gold standard" in treating Ebola and in training staff to respond to highly infectious diseases in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, UNMC had the vision and expertise to create the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit in 2005 to protect and serve the state and nation against the threat of highly infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit's dedicated and expert staff of nurses, lab workers, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, care technicians, and physicians selflessly treat patients who have contracted a highly infectious disease to restore their health; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Nebraska Ebola Team were named 2014 Midlanders of the Year by the Omaha World-Herald for their dedication and contributions in the nation's fight against Ebola; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit is the largest unit of its kind in the nation and has worked closely with global, federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to deliver care and protect our country; and

WHEREAS, as hospitals across the nation asked the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit to help them prepare to defend against Ebola, the unit immediately released all its treatment protocols and training materials in a timely and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, to help meet the crisis demand for highly infectious disease protocol procedures, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit collaborated with Apple, Inc. to develop and distribute protocols and other state-of-the-art training materials through Apple iTunes for professionals, facilities, and the public; and

WHEREAS, since the Ebola crisis began to affect United States communities in the summer of 2014, more than 40 civilian and military hospital teams from across the nation have sought and received specialized intense training from UNMC in highly infectious disease protocols to better prepare and protect their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit is a Nebraska asset and a national leader in global preparedness and readiness to respond to highly infectious disease threats.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit for its service to our state, nation, and world.

2. That the Legislature urges the Nebraska congressional delegation to work with federal agencies to support efforts in Congress to establish a national training center in highly infectious diseases at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Nebraska Medicine.