

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 347

Introduced by Spivey, 13; McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, Ira F. Combs was a pioneer in the public health community and explicitly the North Omaha community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs had an extensive academic journey that began at Iowa Western Community College where he graduated cum laude with an Associate's Degree in Child Development, and culminated when he returned to academia to earn his Associate's Degree in Nursing from Metropolitan Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs was an alumnus of Trinity University and Walden University and a retired University of Nebraska Medical Center nurse; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs was a nationally recognized healthcare leader, registered nurse, educator, and community advocate whose career spanned more than four decades of service, leadership, and innovation in healthcare delivery and health equity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs' life was defined by an unwavering commitment to improving access to quality healthcare for underserved and minority populations, particularly within the North Omaha community and other similar communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs founded North Omaha Area Health, Inc. in 1998, and the health center served as a beacon of hope in the North Omaha community by providing no cost or low-cost health services, personal health screenings, health classes, and support groups; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work in healthcare, Mr. Combs was a prolific educator serving as a part-time instructor at Metropolitan Community College, teaching medical science and certified nursing assistant courses, and delivering keynote addresses and presentations at several conferences; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs was deeply involved in civic engagement and served on

numerous boards and advisory councils including North Omaha Area Health, Omaha Home for Boys, Black Family Health and Wellness Association, My Sister's Keeper, and the Mayor's Omaha Police Review Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs' accomplishments did not go unnoticed and he was awarded the President Barack Obama Champion of Change Award for Health and Prevention, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Community Service Award, the Boy Scouts of America Mid-America Council Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, the Public Health Association of Nebraska Jim Dill Distinguished Service Award, and the Urban League of Nebraska African American Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combs passed away on January 24, 2026, and the Legislature recognizes his many contributions to healthcare in the community, his achievements, and his well-lived life.

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

1. That the Legislature expresses and extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Ira F. Combs.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Ira F. Combs.