

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 344

Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

WHEREAS, over 1.2 million people living in the United States are infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and one in eight is unaware of the infection; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 2,100 people living with HIV in Nebraska, and 88 people were newly diagnosed in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, and for those with specific risk factors, the CDC recommends getting tested at least once a year; and

WHEREAS, significant advances in antiretroviral therapy for HIV have made it possible to reduce transmission rates, avoid over 862,000 premature deaths, gain over 27 million life-years, and gain \$615 billion in economic value over the cost of HIV treatment in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, the movement of U = U, or Undetectable = Untransmittable, is a scientific breakthrough that confirms HIV treatment also offers the benefit of preventing HIV transmission, and provides education to help reduce stigma and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, forty percent of people living with HIV receive care through the medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska could begin to better engage those people living with HIV who are not virally suppressed and report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the viral loads of people receiving medical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has made ending the HIV epidemic a national priority and has focused substantial new resources through its plan called Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes that collaboration by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services with stakeholders, including patients, physicians, and public health experts, will raise awareness and reduce stigma and discrimination for those living with HIV and that such collaboration will help prevent and reduce new HIV cases.