

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 510

Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: Integrating palliative care into mainstream medicine for all patients and families facing serious illnesses offers an essential opportunity to deliver on the promise of person-centered and family-focused care. Palliative care means medical care that improves the quality of life of a patient and his or her family as they face problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, assessment, and treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial, and spiritual problems.

Palliative care improves quality of life and creates care efficiencies that curb costs. Palliative care is concerned with treating the person beyond the disease. It is about improving quality of life and providing an extra layer of support to relieve the pain, symptoms, and stress of serious illness, and can be provided alongside curative treatment. It helps both the patient and family and is appropriate at any age and any stage. At its core, the focus of palliative care is to promote and protect patient and family quality of life by relieving the burden of illness and ensuring that treatment plans are tailored to personal goals.

The purpose of this interim study is to examine how to best integrate palliative care into the overall medical care structure of our health care system. This examination should include discussions about the establishment of a state advisory council on palliative care and quality of life and how this council could, by conducting educational programs or by other means, help increase access to and understanding of the usage and need for palliative care. The study committee should also examine whether legislation is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state by

ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of the study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.