

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 347

Introduced by Krist, 10.

WHEREAS, tobacco cessation programs are available to persons desiring to quit smoking cigarettes. However, many persons addicted to cigarette smoking find it difficult to quit; and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking is a leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States, but studies show that smokeless tobacco presents a fraction of the health risk of smoking cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, tobacco harm reduction strategies aim to enable smokers who find it difficult to quit smoking cigarettes to switch to smokeless tobacco products. Tobacco control policies that facilitate the migration of smokers to less risky smokeless products may be more effective at reducing the deaths, diseases, and expenses associated with smoking than policies that rely solely on the abstinence-only approach; and

WHEREAS, while tobacco harm reduction strategies are not widely used, a growing body of public health advocates, academics, and tobacco manufacturers recognize the potential societal benefits of such strategies; and

WHEREAS, several public health organizations have publicly acknowledged the substantial reductions in disease risks associated with smokeless tobacco use compared to the use of cigarettes, which is referred to as the risk continuum for tobacco products, and some such organizations

have endorsed tobacco harm reduction strategies to encourage smokers to switch to smokeless tobacco.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the importance of tobacco harm reduction strategies as an additional policy choice to assist cigarette smokers in quitting.