Whereas the Governors Volunteer Award Program encourages individuals to volunteer their time and provide mentoring to Iowa state agencies, such as the Iowa Department for the Blind; and,

Whereas the Iowa Department for the Blind participates in the Governor’s Volunteer Award program naming a state agency coordinator and regularly distributing a volunteer newsletter; and

Whereas since the 1960’s, , the Iowa Department for the Blind has partnered with the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa and other blind consumer organizations and blind individuals to provide mentorship and advocacy to help build the skills and positive attitude towards blindness of the department’s clients; and,

Whereas, At the March 2024 Commission board meeting, The commissioners of the Iowa Department for the Blind passed a volunteer policy significantly limits contact between members of the National Federation of the Blind and students in its training programs, and whereas, the Iowa Department for the Blind limits the National Federation of the Blind's access to students by dictating that the same presenter cannot conduct Business Class more than once annually even though this change was not implemented by the Commissioners' most recent policy change, and whereas, the Iowa Department for the Blind regularly asks for volunteeers and even has a newsletter seeking such assistance, but limits access to students by dictating who can be present during Federation sponsored events such as meals during Independent Living Integration and Self Week, and whereas, this attempt to control and limit volunteers is detrimental both to encouraging a spirit of volunteerism between JDB and consumer organizations, and to students who need other blind individuals as mentors, therefore be it Resolved on this 19th day of October 2024, that the Iowa Department for the Blind cease and desist from limiting which Federation members have access to students, let the Iowa Department for the Blind allow the Federation to exercise its autonomy regarding which members interact and present to students without limits.