

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4025

Introduced by

Senators Nalewaja, Cook, C. Nelson, Robinson

Representatives Grande, Kliniske

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the effects of sexual abuse on
2 child victims, strategies to assist child victims and the parents of child victims, effective
3 deterrents, and the need for training of professionals, public awareness initiatives, and training
4 of school personnel in the recognition of victims and in prevention activities.

5 **WHEREAS**, based upon a survey of parents, a December 1995 Gallup poll estimated
6 that 23 percent of children have been sexually abused by an adult or older child and that
7 1,300,000 children in the United States have been forced to touch an adult or older child in a
8 sexual manner, have been forcibly touched by an adult or older child in a sexual manner, or
9 have been forced to have sex with an adult or older child; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in this state in fiscal year 1995, 380 reports of suspected child sexual
11 abuse by a caretaker were reported to the Department of Human Services, and in 122 of those
12 reports a determination was made that there was probable cause to believe child sexual abuse
13 had occurred, and an additional 234 reports of suspected noncaretaker child sexual abuse were
14 made to the department and were referred to law enforcement agencies; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation manages over 300 adult
16 sex offenders and research about adult sex offenders has revealed that more than one-half
17 offended as children and that treatment can stop many of these offenders from reoffending; and

18 **WHEREAS**, parents of a sexually abused child may be emotionally traumatized by their
19 child's victimization and may be in need of support including a parents' network; and

20 **WHEREAS**, sexually abused children may suffer from physical, mental, and emotional
21 deterioration, low self-esteem, poor academic progress, inappropriate behaviors, and suicidal
22 tendencies; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the child protection services program through the Alliance for Sexual Abuse
24 Prevention and Treatment promotes public awareness of child abuse issues and the prevention
25 of child sexual abuse, and also provides training for professionals; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Child Fatality Review Panel monitors unexpected child deaths and
2 recommends changes in policy, practices, and law to prevent child deaths; and

3 **WHEREAS**, evidence suggests that efforts to prevent abuse and to promptly and
4 appropriately treat victims and offenders will save taxpayers millions of dollars over time and
5 will save children from trauma and lifelong suffering;

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
7 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

8 That the Legislative Council study the effects of sexual abuse on child victims,
9 strategies to assist child victims and the parents of child victims, effective deterrents, and the
10 need for training of professionals, public awareness initiatives, and training of school personnel
11 in the recognition of victims and in prevention activities; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
13 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
14 the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.