

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED 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, the use and  
3 effectiveness of the mandatory reporting law, effective deterrents, and the need for training of  
4 professionals, public awareness initiatives, and training of school personnel in the recognition  
5 of victims and in prevention activities.

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

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

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

19 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota state law provides for mandatory reporting of suspected  
20 abuse; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

11           That the Legislative Council study the effects of sexual abuse on child victims,  
12 strategies to assist child victims and the parents of child victims, the use and effectiveness of  
13 the mandatory reporting law, effective deterrents, and the need for training of professionals,  
14 public awareness initiatives, and training of school personnel in the recognition of victims and in  
15 prevention activities; and

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