

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4022**

Introduced by

Senator Kilzer

1 A concurrent resolution urging the State Health Officer to transmit the treatment guidelines for  
2 congestive heart failure published by the Heart Failure Society of America, Inc., to appropriate  
3 health care professionals and to urge the adoption of these guidelines in the professionals'  
4 practices.

5 **WHEREAS**, congestive heart failure is a major health problem impacting 5,000,000  
6 Americans; and

7 **WHEREAS**, each year there are 550,000 new cases of congestive heart failure  
8 diagnoses, 200,000 deaths due to the disease, and 1,000,000 hospitalizations due to the  
9 disease, with the vast majority of patients not diagnosed until late in the course of the disease;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, a conservative estimate of annual health expenditures in this country for  
12 congestive heart failure is in excess of \$10,000,000,000, with the majority of this money being  
13 expended for the cost of hospitalizations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, although current treatment guidelines recommend that approximately  
15 80 percent of heart failure patients receive ACE inhibitors in combination with beta blockers to  
16 extend life and reduce costly hospitalizations, only 45 percent of patients are actually treated  
17 with ACE inhibitors and 20 percent of patients actually receive beta blockers;

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

20 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the State Health Officer to transmit  
21 the treatment guidelines for congestive heart failure published by the Heart Failure Society of  
22 America, Inc., to appropriate health care professionals and to urge the adoption of these  
23 guidelines in the professionals' practices; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges  
25 physicians and payers to administer and provide reimbursement for echocardiograms to all

1 patients over 50 years of age with a history of heart disease and begin appropriate treatment as  
2 early as possible; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges  
4 physicians and payers to prescribe or provide reimbursement for the standard of care for  
5 congestive heart failure, including Federal Drug Administration-approved beta blockers and  
6 ACE inhibitors as well as other therapies that have been shown to reduce the mortality and  
7 morbidity associated with congestive heart failure; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly endorses the  
9 inclusion of the latest treatment advances for congestive heart failure, including ACE inhibitor  
10 and beta blocker therapies in the curriculum of medical schools; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
12 resolution to the State Health Officer, the North Dakota Medical Association, the North Dakota  
13 Health Care Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, and Blue Cross Blue  
14 Shield of North Dakota.