

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4022
(Senator Kilzer)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State