

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024
(Representatives Koppang, Grumbo, Hawken, Skarphol)
(Senators Freborg, O'Connell)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to raise the level of federal funding for the education of children with disabilities.

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education, to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their parents or guardians, to assist states and localities in providing for the education of all children with disabilities, and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, although Congress has declared that state and local education agencies have a responsibility to provide education for all children with disabilities, state and local financial resources are inadequate to meet the special education needs of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1975, Congress enacted the Education For All Handicapped Children Act, which, after being amended in 1991, is known as the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress included a graduated formula for determining state entitlement and provided that for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the federal funding level was to be set at 40 percent of the average per student expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the most recent level of federal funding received by this state for the education of children with disabilities is one-third of the 40 percent target level set by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota supports the goal of providing full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities and recognizes that in meeting this goal, many school districts in the state incur financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, budget surpluses in recent years could be used to raise the level of federal funding for special education;

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

That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to raise the level of federal funding for the education of children with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Education, to the chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, to the chairman of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

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

Secretary of State