

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4034

(Senators T. Mathern, Lee)
(Representatives Cleary, Price)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the issues and concerns of implementing charitable choice, the privatization of federally funded welfare services through faith-based organizations.

WHEREAS, "charitable choice" is the term applied to Section 104 of the federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 [Pub. L. 104-193; 110 Stat. 2105], which encourages states to involve charitable, religious, or private organizations in providing federally funded welfare services to the poor and needy; and

WHEREAS, charitable choice allows states to enter purchase of service agreements or voucher arrangements with charitable, religious, or private organizations under the temporary assistance for needy families program; and

WHEREAS, charitable choice also applies to supplemental security income and to the food stamp and Medicaid programs to the extent that the state uses contracts or vouchers with nongovernmental providers; and

WHEREAS, proponents of charitable choice claim that states have long contracted with private and religious groups to provide programs like job training, foster care, child-rearing classes, adult education, day care, and drug rehabilitation and that charities reduce administrative costs by using volunteers and lower-paid employees; and

WHEREAS, opponents claim charitable choice violates the separation of church and state by allowing pervasively sectarian institutions, including houses of worship, to receive federal funding to administer social services and public health benefits on behalf of the government;

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

That the Legislative Council study the issues and concerns of implementing charitable choice, the privatization of federally funded welfare services through faith-based organizations; and

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

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