

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3023

Introduced by

Representatives Warnke, Delmore, Wald

Senators Andrist, Krebsbach

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the desirability and feasibility
2 of establishing a school of dentistry at the University of North Dakota.

3 **WHEREAS**, there are 56 dental schools in the United States; and

4 **WHEREAS**, 7,700 students applied for admission to dental school in 2000, which
5 represented a reduction of almost 14 percent since 1999 and a reduction of almost 21 percent
6 since 1997; and

7 **WHEREAS**, 4,234 students, or about 55 percent of applicants, were first-year enrollees
8 in dental schools in 2000; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the declining number of applicants to dental schools has been attributed at
10 least in part to a reluctance by students to assume more educational debt and assumptions
11 about the difficulty of gaining admittance to dental school; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a national decline in the applicant pool will make it more difficult for rural
13 states to recruit and retain dentists; and

14 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota already ranks well below the national average with respect to
15 the number of practicing dentists and 16 counties in this state have been designated as dental
16 health professional shortage areas; and

17 **WHEREAS**, a recent survey showed that more than 36 percent of the dentists practicing
18 in North Dakota were beyond the age of 50 and that by 2008 over 40 percent of the dentists
19 who were practicing in North Dakota in 1998 will have retired; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals will seriously affect the oral
21 health of many North Dakotans, and in particular, that of low-income North Dakotans; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals in North Dakota could be
23 significantly reduced if not alleviated by encouraging students to pursue careers in dentistry and
24 by providing them the opportunity to pursue the necessary curriculum in this state;

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

3 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a school
4 of dentistry at the University of North Dakota; and

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