

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4025**

Introduced by

Senators Warner, J. Lee

Representative Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability  
2 of developing and funding a program to provide services to youth in foster care who are  
3 preparing to transition to adulthood and for youth between 18 and 21 years of age who have left  
4 foster care and need assistance.

5 **WHEREAS**, foster care services provide a substitute temporary living environment for  
6 children who cannot safely remain with their families; and

7 **WHEREAS**, an estimated 20,000 youth transition out of foster care annually in the  
8 United States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, youth who transition out of foster care are often at extreme risk of poverty  
10 and homelessness, victimization and criminal involvement, illness, early childbearing, and low  
11 educational attainment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a child in foster care who reaches 18 years of age is likely to need  
13 assistance in making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency in the form of assistance  
14 in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and  
15 retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills,  
16 substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities; and

17 **WHEREAS**, a program to provide services to youth transitioning out of foster care would  
18 provide personal and emotional support through mentors and the promotion of interactions with  
19 dedicated adults; and

20 **WHEREAS**, a program that provides financial, housing, counseling, employment,  
21 education, medical, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients  
22 between 18 and 21 years of age would complement these young adults' efforts to achieve  
23 self-sufficiency and assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal  
24 responsibility for preparing for and making the transition from adolescence to adulthood;

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

3           That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of developing and  
4   funding a program to provide services to youth in foster care who are preparing to transition to  
5   adulthood and for youth between 18 and 21 years of age who have left foster care and need  
6   assistance; and

7           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and  
8   recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
9   the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.