

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4025

(Senators Warner, J. Lee)

(Representative Price)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of developing and funding a program to provide services to youth in foster care who are preparing to transition to adulthood and for youth between 18 and 21 years of age who have left foster care and need assistance; 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 Sixty-first 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 _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State