

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4005**

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, J. Lee, Fischer

Representatives Hawken, Ekstrom, Schneider

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability  
2 of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness.

3 **WHEREAS**, all youth are challenged by the transition to young adult roles in  
4 employment, education, independent living, and community life; and

5 **WHEREAS**, during this transition period, young adults face decisions about future  
6 career and educational goals, social responsibilities, self-management of one's behavior,  
7 alcohol and drug use, social problem-solving competencies, and maintenance of friendships  
8 and intimate relationships; and

9 **WHEREAS**, young adults with, or at-risk of, mental illness are particularly challenged by  
10 this transitional period; and

11 **WHEREAS**, current foster care, mental health, education, and other programs have not  
12 provided the community-relevant skills and experiences needed to facilitate successful  
13 transitions from home and school to young adult roles for those young adults with mental  
14 illness; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the transition period for young adults is complicated further by the lack of  
16 coordinated services among children's mental health, child welfare, educational, adult mental  
17 health, substance abuse treatment, and rehabilitation sectors; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in order to improve the likelihood of these individuals becoming contributing  
19 members of society, systems and methods that will effectively prepare them for transition to the  
20 community need to be explored and researched; and

21 **WHEREAS**, a transition to independence program helps to prepare and support young  
22 adults with mental illness in their movement into adult roles and personal functioning and  
23 success through an individualized developmentally appropriate process; and

1           **WHEREAS**, a transition to independence program helps emphasize strength-based  
2 services that can help young adults acquire skills in the key life domains of education,  
3 employment, community living, and managing relationships;

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

6           That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a  
7 transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness; and

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