

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017

Introduced by

Senator Nething

1 A concurrent resolution expressing support for the continued statewide efforts to prevent the
2 initiation of smoking among minors and to promote quitting among minors and adults and
3 expressing concern about employers that allow their teenage employees to take smoking
4 breaks, a practice that encourages the initiation of tobacco use, does not encourage or create
5 incentives for minors to quit smoking, reduces productivity and the amount of time spent on
6 assigned work-related duties, and creates hostility between smoking and nonsmoking
7 employees.

8 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Assembly is concerned about minors' access to tobacco,
9 the marketing of tobacco products to minors, and the health effects of tobacco products on
10 minors and adults; and

11 **WHEREAS**, 90 percent of all initiation of tobacco use occurs among individuals under
12 the age of 21; and

13 **WHEREAS**, each day, nearly 6,000 minors start smoking; of these, nearly 2,000 will
14 become regular smokers resulting in almost 800,000 new underage smokers annually; and

15 **WHEREAS**, tobacco use in adolescence is associated with a range of
16 health-compromising behaviors, including being involved in fights, carrying weapons, engaging
17 in high-risk sexual behavior, and using alcohol and other drugs; and

18 **WHEREAS**, studies show that employees who smoke take a higher proportion of sick
19 days and have longer absences than nonsmoking employees and have about two times more
20 lost production time per week than employees who never smoked;

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

23 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly expresses support for the continued statewide
24 efforts to prevent the initiation of smoking among minors and to promote the quitting of smoking
25 among minors and adults and expresses concern about employers that allow their teenage

- 1 employees to take smoking breaks, a practice that encourages the initiation of tobacco use,
- 2 does not encourage or create incentives for minors to quit smoking, reduces productivity and
- 3 the amount of time spent on assigned work-related duties, and creates hostility between
- 4 smoking and nonsmoking employees.