

Sixtieth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 4008

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Robinson

Representative Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study issues affecting the delivery of  
2 child welfare services in the state, including out-of-home placement determinations; emphasis  
3 on family counseling, including in-home counseling; staffing patterns in county social services  
4 offices; supervision standards for child welfare staff; funding from private, state, and federal  
5 sources; and the viability of joint powers agreements among counties and the nature of public  
6 and private partnerships in support of effective child welfare services.

7 **WHEREAS**, the Children's Justice Initiative Task Force was established to review  
8 issues regarding children in the state's child welfare system, particularly children who are  
9 abused or neglected, and to consider methods of ensuring better collaboration among and  
10 support for entities associated with child welfare services, including the courts; and

11 **WHEREAS**, information assembled and reviewed by the task force indicated that a  
12 disparity in standards used to determine the extent of child welfare services to be provided and  
13 to identify adequate methods to ensure child safety in the home exists; and

14 **WHEREAS**, joint efforts between the Department of Human Services and Village  
15 Family Services demonstrate contributions made by public and private partnerships in support  
16 of families; and

17 **WHEREAS**, there appears to be a need to establish uniform supervision standards for  
18 local level child welfare staff and to consider mechanisms to ensure an adequate level of  
19 training and compensation for child welfare staff; and

20 **WHEREAS**, lack or uncertainty of funding may adversely affect the delivery of basic  
21 services in rural areas and may limit the availability of effective preventative program services  
22 to limit children being removed from the home and to assist in effective transition upon return if  
23 a child is removed; and

24 **WHEREAS**, funding issues demonstrate the need to review the mix of private, state,  
25 and federal funding in support of child welfare services and to consider the viability of joint

1 powers agreements among counties and the nature of public and private relationships to  
2 ensure that effective child welfare services are provided;

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

5 That the Legislative Council study issues affecting the delivery of child welfare services  
6 in the state, including out-of-home placement determinations; emphasis on family counseling,  
7 including in-home counseling; staffing patterns in county social services offices; supervision  
8 standards for child welfare staff; funding from private, state, and federal sources; and the  
9 viability of joint powers agreements among counties and the nature of public and private  
10 partnerships in support of effective child welfare services; and

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