

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3041

Introduced by

Representatives Schneider, Dahl

Senators Nelson, Schneider

1 A concurrent resolution to recognize the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the
2 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter for their efforts in
3 understanding and preventing suicide through research and education and for providing
4 programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and those impacted by suicide and
5 to recognize depression as a mental illness and how individuals who suffer from depression
6 may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior.

7 **WHEREAS**, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the leading national
8 not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide
9 through research and education and to reaching out to people with mood disorders and those
10 affected by suicide; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 there were 32,637 reported suicide deaths in the United States
12 which translates into 11 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons or one suicide death every
13 16.6 minutes; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 North Dakota, which had 92 reported suicide deaths, had the
15 12th highest suicide rate in the country, a rate of 14.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons and
16 an average of 1.8 suicide deaths every week; and

17 **WHEREAS**, suicide is considered to be the second leading cause of death among
18 college students; the second leading cause of death for people aged 24 to 34; the third leading
19 cause of death for people aged 10 to 24; and the fourth leading cause of death for adults
20 between the ages of 18 and 65; and

21 **WHEREAS**, at least 90 percent of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and
22 treatable psychiatric illness, such as major depression, bipolar depression, or some other
23 depressive illness, including schizophrenia; alcohol or drug abuse, particularly when combined
24 with depression; posttraumatic stress disorder, or some other anxiety disorder; bulimia or
25 anorexia nervosa; or personality disorders, such as borderline or antisocial; and

1 **WHEREAS**, over 60 percent of all people who die by suicide suffer from major
2 depression and if alcoholics who are depressed are included in the calculation, this figure rises
3 to over 75 percent; and

4 **WHEREAS**, depression is among the most treatable of psychiatric illnesses; and

5 **WHEREAS**, between 80 percent and 90 percent of people with depression respond
6 positively to treatment and almost all patients gain some relief from their symptoms with
7 treatment; and

8 **WHEREAS**, to achieve its mission of understanding and preventing suicide, the
9 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide
10 Prevention - North Dakota Chapter encourage and fund scientific research into why suicide
11 occurs and how best to prevent it; shape and coordinate new treatment initiatives aimed at
12 reducing suicide; provide educational programs for mental health clinicians, educators,
13 physicians, and other professionals; offer programs to help survivors heal; promote policies that
14 further the prevention of suicide; foster public awareness about warning signs and risk factors;
15 and provide programs and resources for people with mood disorders and their families and
16 involve them in the work of the foundation and chapter;

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

19 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly recognizes the American Foundation for
20 Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota
21 Chapter for their efforts in understanding and preventing suicide through research and
22 education and for providing programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and
23 those impacted by suicide and recognizes depression as a mental illness and how individuals
24 who suffer from depression may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
26 resolution to the executive director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and to
27 the president of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter.