Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4001
(Legislative Council)
(Budget Committee on Government Services)
(Senator St. Aubyn)
(Representatives Sveen, Wentz)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to monitor mental health and foster care services.

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services has developed a plan for an integrated multidisciplinary continuum of services for mentally ill individuals pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 50-06-06.5, which was a recommendation resulting from a 1985-86 study by the Legislative Council; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council has monitored services to the mentally ill and chemically dependent since the 1987-88 interim, including the role and function of the State Hospital and expanded community services for mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals; and

WHEREAS, each regional human service center operates a psychosocial rehabilitation center through contracts with private, nonprofit organizations for providing companionship and recreational activities for individuals with serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the 1991 Legislative Assembly began providing funding for clubhouse projects for providing prevocational skills training for individuals with serious mental illness and currently two psychosocial rehabilitation centers operate clubhouse projects; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Legislative Assembly authorized the Mental Health Division to implement and supervise a unified mental health delivery system to assure that mental health services provided by the human service centers, the State Hospital, and private contractors are in accordance with the state plan; and

WHEREAS, the cost of services for children placed out of state in the foster care program increased from $603,000 in fiscal year 1994 to $1.1 million in fiscal year 1995; and

WHEREAS, the effect of ongoing federal and state welfare reform activity is unknown at this time; and

WHEREAS, residential child care facilities and residential treatment centers have expressed concern that reimbursement rate adjustments are not made on a timely basis by the Department of Human Services and that the rates do not provide for the actual cost of services;

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

That the Legislative Council monitor mental health and foster care services, including changes in the role of the State Hospital, psychosocial rehabilitation centers, and clubhouse projects; the effect of welfare reform on the delivery of mental health and foster care services; methods used to place children in the custody of the division of juvenile services; methods used to place children in residential child care facilities and residential treatment centers and methods of setting and levels of reimbursements for residential child care facilities and residential treatment centers; and items of legislative intent regarding mental health and foster care services; 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 Fifty-sixth 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 _____, 1997,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State