

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. 4016
(Senators DeMers, Mathern, Nalewaja, Yockim)
(Representative Gulleeson)**

A concurrent resolution urging each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to seek and promote federal legislation that provides for in-home adjustment services for the visually impaired older citizens of the state of North Dakota.

WHEREAS, visual impairment is common among people age 55 and over, due in part to the major diseases of the eye which are associated with the aging process, including macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 10,500 North Dakota residents over 55 years of age experience severe vision impairment; and

WHEREAS, one-to-one skills training would make it possible for individuals with reduced vision to maintain or improve their quality of life in the home, community, and job environment; and

WHEREAS, existing federal legislation, which is funded only on a limited competitive basis, calls for the provision of training to older visually impaired individuals in the areas of orientation and mobility, communication skills, activities of daily living, and use of low vision aids and provides for family and peer counseling; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Dakota has matched federal funds in the past;

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

That the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to seek maximum funding of the Older Blind (Title VII, Chapter 2) portion of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1992, as amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that vision rehabilitation services be included in existing Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party reimbursement programs or considered as part of an overall national health plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

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