

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3023  
(Representatives Warnke, Delmore, Wald)  
(Senators Andrist, Krebsbach)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the desirability and feasibility of establishing a regional dental school in North Dakota within the North Dakota University System and in conjunction with the school of dentistry at the University of Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, there are 56 dental schools in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, 7,700 students applied for admission to dental school in 2000, which represented a reduction of almost 14 percent since 1999 and a reduction of almost 21 percent since 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, 4,234 students, or about 55 percent of applicants, were first-year enrollees in dental schools in 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the declining number of applicants to dental schools has been attributed at least in part to a reluctance by students to assume more educational debt and assumptions about the difficulty of gaining admittance to dental school; and

**WHEREAS**, a national decline in the applicant pool will make it more difficult for rural states to recruit and retain dentists; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota already ranks well below the national average with respect to the number of practicing dentists and 16 counties in this state have been designated as dental health professional shortage areas; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent survey showed that more than 36 percent of the dentists practicing in North Dakota were beyond the age of 50 and that by 2008 over 40 percent of the dentists who were practicing in North Dakota in 1998 will have retired; and

**WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals will seriously affect the oral health of many North Dakotans, and in particular, that of low-income North Dakotans; and

**WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals in North Dakota could be significantly reduced if not alleviated by encouraging students to pursue careers in dentistry and by providing them the opportunity to pursue a portion of the necessary curriculum in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, a regional dental school concept in conjunction with an established dental school may provide students greater exposure to the values and opportunities of a rural dental practice setting;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a regional dental school in North Dakota within the North Dakota University System and in conjunction with the school of dentistry at the University of Minnesota; 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-ninth Legislative Assembly.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State