

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3076
(Representatives R. Kelsch, Price)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to recognize the meritorious aspects and the successes of the Head Start program, maintain funding at the highest possible level, and reject any proposal to move Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education or to limit the scope of Head Start.

WHEREAS, Head Start is a 38-year-old federally funded program charged with preparing poverty-level preschoolers for elementary school; and

WHEREAS, Head Start also sends children to the dentist, the doctor, or the mental health professional and provides case management services as well as general educational development and parenting classes for families that live well below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Head Start has been overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services since 1965; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed moving the program to the Department of Education and changing the focus of the program to one that promotes literacy; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposal is designed to place governors in charge of setting standards for teacher qualifications and instruction and determining which programs can receive Head Start money; and

WHEREAS, although the President's proposal is designed to allow states to increase all-day Head Start classes, coordinate state preschool programs with Head Start, and mesh preschool instruction with kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum, the proposal fails to recognize that Head Start is not just an early education program but a family support program and if the proposed changes are implemented, the family support aspect of Head Start will be lost; and

WHEREAS, if governors are in charge of the funding for Head Start programs, there is the possibility that the funding will be directed toward uses other than that for which it was intended especially in states facing budget deficits, resulting in cuts in prekindergarten programs and less resources going toward serving the neediest of the children;

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

That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to recognize the meritorious aspects and the successes of the Head Start program, maintain funding at the highest possible level, and reject any proposal to move Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education or any attempt to limit the scope of the Head Start program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

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

Secretary of State