

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4008

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Robinson

Representative Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study issues affecting the delivery of
2 child welfare services in the state, including staffing patterns in county social services offices,
3 supervision standards for child welfare staff, funding from state and federal sources, and the
4 viability of joint powers agreements among counties in support of effective child welfare
5 services.

6 **WHEREAS**, the Children's Justice Initiative Task Force was established to review
7 issues regarding children in the state's child welfare system, particularly children who are
8 abused or neglected, and to consider methods of ensuring better collaboration among and
9 support for entities associated with child welfare services, including the courts; and

10 **WHEREAS**, information assembled and reviewed by the task force indicated that a
11 disparity in standards used to determine the extent of child welfare services to be provided and
12 to identify adequate methods to ensure child safety in the home exists; and

13 **WHEREAS**, there appears to be a need to establish uniform supervision standards for
14 local level child welfare staff and to consider mechanisms to ensure an adequate level of
15 training and compensation for child welfare staff; and

16 **WHEREAS**, lack or uncertainty of funding may adversely affect the delivery of basic
17 services in rural areas and may limit the availability of effective preventative program services
18 to limit children being removed from the home and to assist in effective transition upon return if
19 a child is removed; and

20 **WHEREAS**, funding issues demonstrate the need to review the mix of state and federal
21 funding in support of child welfare services and to consider the viability of joint powers
22 agreements among counties to ensure that effective child welfare services are provided;

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

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly

1 That the Legislative Council study issues affecting the delivery of child welfare services
2 in the state, including staffing patterns in county social services offices, supervision standards
3 for child welfare staff, funding from state and federal sources, and the viability of joint powers
4 agreements among counties in support of effective child welfare services; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
6 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
7 the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.