

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4008
(Senators J. Lee, Robinson)
(Representative Price)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study issues affecting the delivery of child welfare services in the state, including out-of-home placement determinations; emphasis on family counseling, including in-home counseling; staffing patterns in county social services offices; supervision standards for child welfare staff; funding from private, state, and federal sources; and the viability of joint powers agreements among counties and the nature of public and private partnerships in support of effective child welfare services.

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

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

WHEREAS, joint efforts between the Department of Human Services and Village Family Services demonstrate contributions made by public and private partnerships in support of families; and

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

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

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

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

That the Legislative Council study issues affecting the delivery of child welfare services in the state, including out-of-home placement determinations; emphasis on family counseling, including in-home counseling; staffing patterns in county social services offices; supervision standards for child welfare staff; funding from private, state, and federal sources; and the viability of joint powers agreements among counties and the nature of public and private partnerships in support of effective child welfare 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 Sixty-first 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 _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State