

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

4034

2001 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4034

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4034

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 19, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
I	x		30
I		X	4.7
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Barry Holdeichuk</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR TIM MATHERN, sponsor, introduced SCR 4034, to study the concept of charitable choice. Charitable Choice is a term applied to section 1 of 4 of the Fed reform act. It encourages states to involve charitable, religious or private organizations in providing Federally funded welfare services. This part suggests an expanded role for religious organizations to provide welfare services to the poor or the needy. 3% of religious congregations are involved in charitable choice. There are 50% that are interested in providing services through their organizations. CC suggests we use the actual congregation or parish to serve. Maybe we can change people's appreciation of what's going on and therefore coming forward with better public policies than we have. Why do we want to get involved with congregations. We have 300,000 entities out there. Congregations are already there, focal point in the community, building, system of volunteers, organization of caring people, so why not have them involved. Then another point of view is that you shouldn't have those organizations involved because you have

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Senate Human Services Committee

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the danger of prophetizing, evangelizing towards a specific religious belief that would go on.

People wouldn't have a choice. Religious organizations could be giving up it's values by taking Federal funds as time goes on.. There are organizations that are moving in this direction and so we will study this and see if ND wants to get involved.

No opposition.

The hearing was closed on SCR 4034.

The discussion resumed on Tape 1, Side B, Meter 4.7.

SENATOR ERBELE moved a DO PASS. SENATOR FISCHER seconded the motion

No discussion. Roll call vote carried 6-0. SENATOR ERBELE will carry the resolution.

Date: 2/19/01

4034

Committee



Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 6

Absent ☒

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 19, 2001 11:33 a.m.

Module No: SR-30-3849
Carrier: Erbele
Insert I.C: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4034: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4034 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4034

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4034

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 21, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		5332 to end
1		x	1 to 2185
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Corinne Easton</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Price: I will open the hearing on SCR 4043.

Sen. T. Mathern - District 11: Presented resolution. (See written testimony).

Rep. Galvin: I am not sure I like your ethnic reference here. In between these poles there are groups...

Chairman Price: I think there is a big difference between congregations and religious organizations such as Lutheran Social Services. The longer I am in this chair the more frustrated I am getting with the congregations in our communities. They are very good at sending money overseas. But they don't seem to want to put any faces on the situation in our own community. I am also frustrated with the groups in our community that maybe for example, the groups that go into the jail and try to teach the inmates some skills. They also aren't coming to the church and asking for the services and educating them. That is my biggest frustration in how do we get those groups together within a community. I am not saying we shouldn't help the people overseas but

we need to take care of home. We seem to as a society be turning a blind eye to that. Do you have any suggestions?

Sen. Mathern: Yes, pass this resolution.

Chairman Price: How is that going to bring us to the church on main street?

Sen. Mathern: There are many examples. There is an article in the Kennedy School Review published by Harvard University which demonstrate how groups like you are talking about have literally made this work. Where it takes a coordination of efforts between professionals and the good will of these parish groups. There is a lot of good will but not enough professional skill or administrative know how to actually put that good will into place. That was the intent of Charitable Choice when it originally came out. I think it takes a reeducation of the people in the congregation and it takes some resources that are going to be spent in that community. It takes working with the county, or the human service center to figure out what programs can in fact be done in that congregation that is not being delivered the public sector. It is not a simple deal. In ND you are going to need larger communities with larger congregations to pull this off. The other aspect of Charitable Choice which keeps people away from it, is this whole issue which we have been debating about mixing religion and government issues. It is not simple to figure out. What can you properly do?

Vice Chair Devlin: As I am looking through this whole stack of really great resolutions that they want us to pick for the interim. Looking at the Federal requirements of privatization isn't one that I would pick. I think there are better people suited to do this study for . . . When we did welfare reform, much of the work on that was done through NCSL. They have the experts there. I don't know what we are going to study here that we aren't already going to get from sources better equipped to give us information.

Sen. Mathern: We would get input from the churches and other nonprofit organizations as to how this might work in ND. Or how it may not work. I think that is the part we don't have. It is a Federal program, we need to hear from this other group of people in ND as to the workability or non workability of this program. I think that is what the study would bring to us. We have a law that is permitting this in this country, we have a president who is promoting this, we ought to be more clear about whether or not the people in our state want this. And if they do, what form should it take?

Rep. Cleary - District 49: I support this resolution because I think it is a progressive approach to an issue that is starting to surface in this country. You were wondering why congregations don't get more involved? I think that we have this feeling for a few years now, we have not been reaching out as we should. In my church we support a mission in Kenya, I keep thinking why don't we support more on the reservations? Or do more work in our state. We can see there are problems and we need to do more.

Christopher Dodson -Executive Director of the ND Catholic Conference: We support this study resolution. We disagree with Sen. Mathern in as much as we feel comfortable with Charitable Choice. It's been around since 1996 and a number of states have tried it, I think what needs to be studied is what concerns do people have in ND? I think it is something we need to look into, how we can do this. Why aren't churches more involved in charity at the local level? This issue, is a product of the old welfare reform system. Where the state had a very centralized way of dealing with poverty and it didn't involve people and it didn't actually involve the client served either. Now we have a new system, but if we don't involve the local communities in the new system we are going to continue to give the impression that it is the state's job. If we don't bring in the local

level, we don't get the local peoples support. It gives the wrong impression of how we deal with poverty. We encourage the study.

Chairman Price: I don't disagree with you, but I think we also now through Lutheran Social Services, etc. Being bigger players, we are thinking they are taking care of the situation.

Brenda Dasette - Executive Director of the ND Society of Nonprofit Organizations: I would just like to go on record as supporting this resolution. I think it is all about education.

COMMITTEE WORK

Rep. Metcalf: I would move a Do Pass on SCR 4034.

Rep. Tieman: I second.

Chairman Price: I have a motion for a do pass, any discussion.

Rep. Metcalf gives his opinion on the resolution.

Rep. Weisz supports this resolution.

Chairman Price: Anyone else? All those in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed? Motion carries by voice vote.

MOTION FOR A DO PASS

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR

CARRIED BY REP. CLEARY

Date: 3-21-01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4034

House Human Services Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Move DO PASS & placed on Consent Calendar

Motion Made By Rep. Metcalf Seconded By Rep. Tieman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairman	✓		Audrey Cleary	✓	
William Devlin - V. Chairman	✓		Ralph Metcalf	✓	
Mark Dosch	✓		Carol Niemeier	✓	
Pat Galvin	✓		Sally Sandvig	✓	
Frank Klein	✓				
Chet Pollert	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Wayne Tieman	✓				
Dave Weiler	✓				
Robin Weisz	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Cleary

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 21, 2001 1:27 p.m.

Module No: HR-49-6296
Carrier: Cleary
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4034: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4034 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

SCR 4034

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SENATOR TIM MATHERN
MARCH 21, 2001

Madame Chairman Price and members of the House Human Services Committee. I am Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11, in Fargo. Senate Concurrent Resolution 4034 directs the Legislative Council to study the issues surrounding implementing charitable choice, the privatization of federally funded welfare services through use of faith-based organizations. This subject has been brought to the forefront in our country in the last few weeks by President Bush.

Charitable choice and its policy to involve faith-based organizations may be a cruel ploy to relieve government of its responsibility to those who are poor, or it may be an opportunity to reconnect religious people with real situations of persons who are poor. Charitable choice was promoted in the last campaign by both presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush. It is a matter being discussed by both parties in Washington, D.C. Even though some do not agree with the implications of charitable choice, it will not go away. It is for this reason we must study the situation.

An argument can be made for the involvement of congregations in welfare programs. Congregations represent multiple constituencies within a community. In addition to the religious denomination, congregations represent interest groups,

various faith dimension and different demographic characteristics. These organizations are in almost every community. Congregations also promote norms of behavior conducive to an orderly society. Despite these roles, faith-based organizations often choose not to get involved in public policy matters.

Congregations that represent the left choose not to get involved for many reasons, including the constitutional grounds of state and church entanglement. Congregations representing the religious right reject collusion with government on the grounds that faith alone provides the answers to individual and social problems. In between these poles there are groups able and willing to consider a new role in terms of welfare reform.

We need to be in the forefront to determine if charitable choice makes sense to North Dakota. I see this study analogous to the early days of welfare reform where we developed T.E.E.M. as a forerunner to T.A.N.F. When the change in welfare reform took hold nationally, North Dakota was more ready because of our earlier work.

I ask for a "Do Pass" on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4034 from your committee. Thank you for your consideration.