

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3006
(Legislative Council)
(Child Support Committee)**

A concurrent resolution expressing legislative approval of the actions taken by the State Bar Association of North Dakota Joint Task Force on Family Law to facilitate and promote mediation as a method of addressing family law matters.

WHEREAS, the Joint Task Force on Family Law was established in January 1995 and has a mission that includes reviewing dispute resolution alternatives to determine potential application in the family law system, including divorce; and

WHEREAS, the traditional legal system is adversarial in nature and is usually counterproductive in fostering communication, cooperation, and a working relationship between parents, skills that may be integral to successful postdivorce childrearing; and

WHEREAS, mediation is based on communication and mutual agreement, which may be productive in teaching problem-solving skills that may decrease postdivorce litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Task Force on Family Law has invested a large amount of time and expended a great amount of energy in drafting and promoting suggested local rules of court that mandate mediation orientation in most divorce cases filed in district court; and

WHEREAS, mandatory mediation orientation should assist in improving the availability of mediators in the rural communities and the western region of the state; and

WHEREAS, in response to the work of the Joint Task Force on Family Law, several judicial districts have agreed to adopt local court rules that mandate mediation orientation in most divorce cases;

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

That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly approves of the actions taken by the State Bar Association of North Dakota Joint Task Force on Family Law to facilitate and promote mediation as a method of addressing family law matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Chief Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court, the Board of Governors of the State Bar Association of North Dakota, and to each member of the Joint Task Force on Family Law.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State