

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024

Introduced by

Representatives Koppang, Grumbo, Hawken, Skarphol

Senators Freborg, O'Connell

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to raise the level of federal funding for the education of
2 children with disabilities.

3 **WHEREAS**, Congress has enacted legislation to ensure that all children with disabilities
4 have available to them a free appropriate public education, to protect the rights of children with
5 disabilities and their parents or guardians, to assist states and localities in providing for the
6 education of all children with disabilities, and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts
7 to educate children with disabilities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, although Congress has declared that state and local education agencies
9 have a responsibility to provide education for all children with disabilities, state and local
10 financial resources are inadequate to meet the special education needs of children with
11 disabilities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, on November 19, 1975, Congress enacted the Education For All
13 Handicapped Children Act, which, after being amended in 1991, is known as the Individuals
14 With Disabilities Education Act; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Congress included a graduated formula for determining state entitlement
16 and provided that for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, and for each fiscal year
17 thereafter, the federal funding level was to be set at 40 percent of the average per student
18 expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the level of federal funding received by this state for the education of
20 children with disabilities has never exceeded 11 percent; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota supports the goal of providing full
22 educational opportunity to all children with disabilities and recognizes that in meeting this goal,
23 many school districts in the state incur financial hardships; and

24 **WHEREAS**, budget surpluses in recent years could be used to raise the level of federal
25 funding for special education;

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

3 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
4 raise the level of federal funding for the education of children with disabilities; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
6 resolution to the Secretary of the Department of Education, to the chairman of the Senate Labor
7 and Human Resources Committee, to the chairman of the House Economic and Educational
8 Opportunities Committee, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.