

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4005

(Senators Mathern, Fischer, J. Lee)
(Representatives Ekstrom, Hawken, Schneider)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness.

WHEREAS, all youth are challenged by the transition to young adult roles in employment, education, independent living, and community life; and

WHEREAS, during this transition period, young adults face decisions about future career and educational goals, social responsibilities, self-management of one's behavior, alcohol and drug use, social problem-solving competencies, and maintenance of friendships and intimate relationships; and

WHEREAS, young adults with, or at-risk of, mental illness are particularly challenged by this transitional period; and

WHEREAS, current foster care, mental health, education, and other programs have not provided the community-relevant skills and experiences needed to facilitate successful transitions from home and school to young adult roles for those young adults with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the transition period for young adults is complicated further by the lack of coordinated services among children's mental health, child welfare, educational, adult mental health, substance abuse treatment, and rehabilitation sectors; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the likelihood of these individuals becoming contributing members of society, systems and methods that will effectively prepare them for transition to the community need to be explored and researched; and

WHEREAS, a transition to independence program helps to prepare and support young adults with mental illness in their movement into adult roles and personal functioning and success through an individualized developmentally appropriate process; and

WHEREAS, a transition to independence program helps emphasize strength-based services that can help young adults acquire skills in the key life domains of education, employment, community living, and managing relationships;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a transition to independence program for young adults with mental illness; 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.