

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4003
(Legislative Council)
(Workforce Committee)

A concurrent resolution expressing support for the development of a balanced national immigration policy and urging Congress to work to develop an immigration policy that protects and preserves the safety and interests of the United States and its citizens while also recognizing the needs of businesses to have a stable and legal supply of workers.

WHEREAS, North Dakota's economy is growing and as a result there are approximately 15,000 unfilled jobs in the state; and

WHEREAS, three population trends affecting the state--rural depopulation, outmigration of young adults and young families, and an increasing proportion of the elderly--are contributing toward a difficulty in businesses meeting workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, the United States generally, and North Dakota specifically, will be facing demographic challenges related to decreasing numbers of high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, continued economic growth in this state and this country is dependent on businesses being able to access and rely on a stable and legal workforce; and

WHEREAS, current immigration law does not address United States labor shortages or marketplace dynamics; and

WHEREAS, in addition to working to eliminate current visa backlogs, there are steps that could be taken at the federal level to help address workforce-related immigration issues, including:

- Increasing annual immigrant visa caps;
- Streamlining the processing of visas; and
- Expediting work authorization for foreign nationals who are awarded university-level degrees from United States institutions in order to ensure the benefits of the educational investment the country has made in these individuals remain in our country; and

WHEREAS, workforce-related immigration challenges are being experienced nationwide;

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

That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly expresses support for the development of a balanced national immigration policy and urges the Congress of the United States to work to develop an immigration policy that protects and preserves the safety and interests of the United States and its citizens while also recognizing the needs of businesses to have a stable and legal supply of workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State