

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Schneider

1 A concurrent resolution to recognize the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for its
2 efforts in understanding and preventing suicide through research and education and for
3 providing programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and those impacted by
4 suicide and recognizes depression as a mental illness and how individuals who suffer from
5 depression may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior.

6 **WHEREAS**, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the leading national
7 not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide
8 through research and education and to reaching out to people with mood disorders and those
9 affected by suicide; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 there were 32,637 reported suicide deaths in the United States
11 which translates into 11 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons or one suicide death every
12 16.6 minutes; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 North Dakota, which had 92 reported suicide deaths, had the
14 12th highest suicide rate in the country, a rate of 14.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 persons; and

15 **WHEREAS**, suicide is considered to be the second leading cause of death among
16 college students; the second leading cause of death for people aged 24 to 34; the third leading
17 cause of death for people aged 10 to 24; and the fourth leading cause of death for adults
18 between the ages of 18 and 65; and

19 **WHEREAS**, at least 90 percent of people who commit suicide have a diagnosable and
20 treatable psychiatric illness, such as major depression, bipolar depression, or some other
21 depressive illness, including schizophrenia; alcohol or drug abuse, particularly when combined
22 with depression; posttraumatic stress disorder, or some other anxiety disorder; bulimia or
23 anorexia nervosa; or personality disorders, such as borderline or antisocial; and

1 **WHEREAS**, over 60 percent of all people who die by suicide suffer from major
2 depression and if alcoholics who are depressed are included in the calculation, this figure rises
3 to over 75 percent; and

4 **WHEREAS**, depression is among the most treatable of psychiatric illnesses; and

5 **WHEREAS**, between 80 percent and 90 percent of people with depression respond
6 positively to treatment and almost all patients gain some relief from their symptoms with
7 treatment; and

8 **WHEREAS**, to achieve its mission of understanding and preventing suicide, the
9 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention funds scientific research, offers educational
10 programs for professionals, educates the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention,
11 promotes policies and legislation that impact suicide and prevention, provides programs and
12 resources for survivors of suicide loss, and provides programs and resources for people with
13 mood disorders and their families and involves them in the work of the foundation;

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

16 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly recognizes the American Foundation for
17 Suicide Prevention for its efforts in understanding and preventing suicide through research and
18 education and for providing programs and resources for individuals with mood disorders and
19 those impacted by suicide and recognizes depression as a mental illness and how individuals
20 who suffer from depression may be at an increased risk of suicidal behavior; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
22 resolution to the executive director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and to
23 the executive director of the North Dakota Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide
24 Prevention.