

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4016

Introduced by

Senators DeMers, Mathern, Nalewaja, Yockim

Representative Gulleason

1 A concurrent resolution urging each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to
2 seek and promote federal legislation that provides for in-home adjustment services for the
3 visually impaired older citizens of the state of North Dakota.

4 **WHEREAS**, visual impairment is common among people age 55 and over, due in part
5 to the major diseases of the eye which are associated with the aging process, including macular
6 degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy; and

7 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that more than 10,500 North Dakota residents over 55 years
8 of age experience severe vision impairment; and

9 **WHEREAS**, one-to-one skills training would make it possible for individuals with
10 reduced vision to maintain or improve their quality of life in the home, community, and job
11 environment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, existing federal legislation, which is funded only on a limited competitive
13 basis, calls for the provision of training to older visually impaired individuals in the areas of
14 orientation and mobility, communication skills, activities of daily living, and use of low vision aids
15 and provides for family and peer counseling; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota is willing to match federal funds;

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

19 That the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the North Dakota Congressional
20 Delegation to seek maximum funding of the Older Blind (Title VII, Chapter 2) portion of the
21 Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1992, as amended; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that vision rehabilitation services be included in existing
23 Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party reimbursement programs or considered as part of an
24 overall national health plan; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
- 2 resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.