

Introduced by

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to amend the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

2 **WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is a reauthorization of the Elementary
3 and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

4 **WHEREAS**, since 1965 the federal government has spent more than \$242 billion to
5 help educate disadvantaged children; and

6 **WHEREAS**, scores for the highest-performing students have improved over time, those
7 of America's lowest-performing students have declined; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is designed to close the achievement
9 gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children by requiring accountability for results,
10 emphasizing what works based on scientific research, expanding parental options, and
11 expanding local control and flexibility; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 accounted for a 59.8 percent increase
13 in federal education funding from 2000 to 2003; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the President's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding
15 for North Dakota to more than \$367.5 million and increases North Dakota's Title I funding to
16 \$32.9 million; and

17 **WHEREAS**, administrators, teachers, school board members, parents, and other
18 citizens of this state have expressed unequivocal support for the concept that no child should
19 be left behind, but they also have expressed concern that various provisions of the Act do not
20 reflect a full and complete understanding of the unique challenges that arise when a state
21 populated by only 633,837 individuals and covering 68,976 square miles must effectively and
22 efficiently educate 101,000 public school students;

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ OF**
24 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE _____ CONCURRING THEREIN:**

1 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
2 amend the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 with a view to standardizing subgroup
3 accountability on a regional or national basis, providing greater flexibility in the determination of
4 high school graduation rates and recognizing general educational development diplomas and
5 alternative high school programs in those rates, and permitting special education teachers to be
6 considered highly qualified when they teach core subjects to students with disabilities in
7 collaboration with a highly qualified classroom teacher; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Congress of the United States recognize that
9 current levels of Title I funding are insufficient to bring low-performing students to the levels of
10 proficiency envisioned by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and that the Congress therefore
11 adequately fund the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
13 resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education and to each member
14 of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.