

Introduced by

Representatives D. Anderson, Schatz, Schmidt, Westlind

Senators Mathern, Robinson, Veda

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Congress of the United States to provide veterans with
2 medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy.

3 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 1.6 million
4 to 3.8 million concussions occur each year; and

5 **WHEREAS**, efforts must be made to reduce the risk and health care costs for the country,
6 veterans, and others with brain injuries; and

7 **WHEREAS**, veterans injured in the line of duty deserve the best treatment our nation can
8 offer; and

9 **WHEREAS**, veterans suffering with traumatic brain injuries or posttraumatic stress disorder
10 are prescribed symptom-reducing drugs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in essence, veterans are warehoused and discharged, dependent on costly
12 antidepressants and other antipsychotic medicines that promote dangerous dependencies and
13 may result in lethal interactions; and

14 **WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in
15 the United States, accounting for approximately 2 million emergency room visits, 230,000 to
16 500,000 hospital admissions, and 52,000 deaths annually in the United States; and

17 **WHEREAS**, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a medical treatment that enhances the body's
18 natural healing process by inhalation of 100 percent oxygen in a total body chamber, where
19 atmospheric pressure is increased and controlled, and which is used for a wide variety of
20 treatments as a part of an overall medical care plan; and

21 **WHEREAS**, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and improving diagnostics have emerged as a
22 promising and effective treatment in healing injured brains and subsequently reducing, and in
23 some cases completely alleviating, the symptoms associated with the traumatic brain injury;

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

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly

1 That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
2 provide veterans with medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
4 to each member of the Congress of the United States.