

1999 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4036

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR4036

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date FEBRUARY 15, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		
1		X	2295
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Carol Kolodziejchuk</i>			

Minutes:

The committee was called to order with all Senators present.

The hearing was open on SCR4036.

SENATOR BERCIER introduced the resolution - brought amendments. Page 2, line 7, uses the word process. Why do you need the process. Just agreements talking around the table. Page 1, line 19, after depressed add "and unemployment approaching 60%".

KEVIN IVERSON, Dept of Human Services, explained the word process. This is to determine how the department is working with the tribes, how the information is being considered and used. SENATOR DEMERS: Was the last resolution labeled process. MR. IVERSON: The last resolution dealt with welfare reform so it was different, but how local entities are brought into the review process and what they are doing. SENATOR DEMERS: It seems the process has been do it our way or not at all. MR. IVERSON: The state plan was sent to all Tribes for

comment and authorities that work with the plan. We shared Federal rules, what our prospective was through TEEM project, trying to get input from various entities. We are dealing with the Federal requirements and that's the accountability. We can't mess up and lose Federal dollars.

SENATOR DEMERS: Is this a futile resolution? There wasn't much change. MR. IVERSON:

Enhancing studies is something we need to work on. We provide employee assistance and help. There is nothing new in the plan, but the way they were directed caused the problems because of Federal rules. Pushing TANF funds for economic development can't be done. TANF funds can only be used to help people get jobs; the jobs have to come from another source.

SENATOR BERCIER: We can work through the word process after Mr. Iverson's explanation.

There is a Presidential Executive Order that we worked through when Tribe initiated this project.

The Tribe had contracted with a private consultant to put this plan together. We get controls by the state - control your own destiny and when we do that we get these barriers. The Presidential Executive Order authorizes the state to minimize and relax the rules of the dollars that come from Congress. There is some ability for authorities in bureaucracies to use their discretion. It appears to me that the agencies can relax these rules.

SENATOR LEE asked if there is relaxation in Federal laws, do we get different groups get and others do not; some are and some aren't? How can we create a system that all people can be

served equally. SENATOR BERCIER: Tribes are responsible to themselves, Tribes, and Federal Government. We have a direct relationship with the Federal government. We are different from other North Dakotans; Treaty requirements of 200 years ago. It does seem an imbalance, but we have a different situation. We need to come to agreements. SENATOR

THANE stated that as long as we continue to communicate we will continue; when we fail to

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Senate Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SCR~~4046~~ 4036

Hearing Date FEBRUARY 15, 1999

communicate it becomes difficult. SENATOR BERCIER would like to have the words 'work force initiative and training' inserted on line 11. The suggestion was to have that in a special paragraph. It was agreed.

SENATOR MATHERN supports resolution. Need to make transitions in orderly fashion.

Hearing was closed on SCR 4036.

The discussion resumed. TOM DISSELHORST suggested amendments adds a clause. (see written amendment) SENATOR LEE moved amendments of page 1, line 19 "with unemployment rate approaching 60% by Bureau of Indian Affairs. SENATOR FISCHER seconded it. The motion was withdrawn until another amendment can to drawn.

Committee resumed. Amendments were again considered. SENATOR FISCHER moved the amendments by department and line 19 amendment. SENATOR KILZER seconded it. Roll call vote carried 6-0-0. SENATOR KILZER moved a DO PASS AS AMENDED. SENATOR FISCHER seconded it. Roll call vote carried 4-2-0. SENATOR KILZER will carry the bill.

Proposed Amendments to SCR 4036:

On Line 21, Page 1:

Remove the word "the" before "welfare", and add, after the word "welfare", the following: ", job and workforce training, and economic development"

Following Line 9, Page 2 add the following clause:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council study how state sponsored economic development, job training and workforce training programs can be coordinated between the state and federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

Following Line 13, Page 2 add the following clause:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, request input from members of the Federally recognized Indian tribes within the state and from officials of the governments of those tribes, especially tribal officials involved with human services and economic development; and

Date: 2/15/99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4036

Senate HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amendments

Motion Made By Sen Fischer Seconded By Sen Kilzer

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Thane	✓				
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Fischer	✓				
Senator Lee	✓				
Senator DeMers	✓				
Senator Mutzenberger	✓				

Total 6 (yes) 0 (no)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/15/97
Roll Call Vote #: 2

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4036

Senate HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Sen Kilzer Seconded By Sen Fischer

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Thane	✓				
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Fischer	✓				
Senator Lee	✓				
Senator DeMers	✓				
Senator Mutzenberger	✓				

Total 6 (yes) 0 (no)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen Thane

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4036: Human Services Committee (Sen. Thane, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4036 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 19, after "depressed" insert "with an unemployment rate approaching sixty percent according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs"

Page 1, line 21, remove the second "the" and after "welfare" insert ", job and workforce training, and economic development"

Page 2, after line 9, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council study how state-sponsored economic development, job training, and workforce training programs can be coordinated between the state and federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and"

Page 2, after line 13, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, request input from members of the federally recognized Indian tribes within the state and from officials of the government of those tribes, especially tribal officials involved with human services and economic development programs; and"

Renumber accordingly

1999 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4036

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR4036

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 16, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		37.6-51.1
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Wayne G. Pfander</i>			

Minutes:

Opened hearing on SCR4036.

Senator TIM MATHERN, District 11, testified. Federal welfare laws has many conditions on what states have to do to get people off welfare. In North Dakota a significant amount of this effort relates to work with the tribes in the state. This resolution asks that attention be given to doing everything we can to make the program work. One of the aspects that has to be dealt with is the determination of unemployment rates on the tribal lands which are used determine how to best use federal aid. He asks for committee support.

Senator RUSSELL THANE, District 25, testified. The resolution is the result of the defeat of a Senate bill that attempted to address these issues. Approximately 25% of the TANF recipients are on the reservations. This percentage will rise as the TANF numbers in the rest of the state go down. Many of the people on the reservation want to remain on the reservation because of their

Page 2

House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number 4036

Hearing Date March 16, 1999

culture and the way of life. This resolution can do some good. We must always maintain the lines of communications with the tribes. Sen. THANE thinks this is an important resolution.

There was no OPPOSITION to SCR4036 and the hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Rep. RALPH METCALF discussed a proposed amendment that would direct the study to include the method of calculating unemployment on the reservation and moved the amendment.

Rep. ROBIN WEISZ seconded the motion. Motion PASSED on voice vote: 13 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT.

Rep. ROBIN WEISZ moved a DO PASS AS AMENDED AND FORWARDED TO THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Seconded by Rep. RALPH METCALF.

The motions passed on a roll call vote: 14 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT.

CARRIER: Rep. RALPH METCALF.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE ENGROSSED CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4036

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"WHEREAS, while federal law requires states to disregard the months of assistance received by an adult while living on an Indian reservation with at least fifty percent unemployment, a conflict has arisen as to the method to be used to determine unemployment rate statistics; and"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, evaluate the use of the Bureau of Indian Affairs unemployment rate statistics to determine if adults within an Indian reservation are exempt from the state's lifetime limit under the temporary assistance for needy families program and evaluate and consider other methods of determining the unemployment rate specifically as it applies to those areas; and"

Renumber accordingly

Passed 13-0-2

VK
3/16/99

HUMSERV 3-17-99

**HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4036**

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"WHEREAS, while federal law requires states to disregard the months of assistance received by an adult while living on an Indian reservation with at least fifty percent unemployment, a conflict has arisen as to the method to be used to determine unemployment rate statistics; and"

**HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4036**

HUMSERV 3-17-99

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, evaluate the use of the Bureau of Indian Affairs unemployment rate statistics to determine if adults within an Indian reservation are exempt from the state's lifetime limit under the temporary assistance for needy families program and evaluate and consider other methods of determining the unemployment rate specifically as it applies to those areas; and"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/16/99
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4036

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended forwarded to Consent Calendar.

Motion Made By Rep Weisz Seconded By Rep Metcalf

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairwoman	✓		Bruce A. Eckre	✓	
Robin Weisz - Vice Chairman	✓		Ralph Metcalf	✓	
William R. Devlin	✓		Carol A. Niemeier	✓	
Pat Galvin	✓		Wanda Rose	✓	
Dale L. Henegar	✓		Sally M. Sandvig	✓	
Roxanne Jensen	✓				
Amy N. Kliniske					
Chet Pollert	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Blair Thoreson	✓				

Total Yes 14 No 0
 Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Metcalf

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4036, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4036 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"WHEREAS, while federal law requires states to disregard the months of assistance received by an adult while living on an Indian reservation with at least fifty percent unemployment, a conflict has arisen as to the method to be used to determine unemployment rate statistics; and"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, evaluate the use of the Bureau of Indian Affairs unemployment rate statistics to determine if adults within an Indian reservation are exempt from the state's lifetime limit under the temporary assistance for needy families program and evaluate and consider other methods of determining the unemployment rate specifically as it applies to those areas; and"

Renumber accordingly

1999 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4036

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR4036

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date MARCH 24, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	X		
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Paul Koldejschuk</i>			

Minutes:

The committee was called to order by SENATOR THANE. Roll call: SENATOR THANE, SENATOR LEE, SENATOR DEMERS, REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN, REPRESENTATIVE PORTER, REPRESENTATIVE METCALF.

SENATOR DEMERS suggested on page 2 change to read conduct a study to “compare and evaluate” after BIA and add and “Job Service”. REPRESENTATIVE PORTER stated that the reason Job Service was not mentioned is that Job Service is not a reliable source of information for Indians. Recommended by Governor’s office to use a different system. BIA information is two years old. REPRESENTATIVE METCALF asked Rep. Porter if he thought this was a conflict? REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: We were not satisfied with the 3-4 year BIA stats either. SENATOR DEMERS: We should be as comprehensive as possible. Neither system

seems to be good. We need to look out there and see what will work. SENATOR LEE: We need to find a viable system. REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: I think it leaves it more open ended. REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: I think it does say that at the end. SENATOR DEMERS: Why didn't you say we would look at all methods? REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: The department wanted to change 2114 as the most appropriate form to the BIA. We don't want to put in Century Code because numbers are so far behind. We want it to be the most appropriate in this bill. REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: My memory is not good. I don't remember every thing that Mr. Porter said. On the first amendment I agree conflict was not a good word. On this particular issue we are in agreement. REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: People felt that BIA statistics could be molded better than job service and gotten to an area that was more acceptable to everyone concerned. That was the reason for using BIA. It reflects the current status more accurately. SENATOR DEMERS: I was shocked when the Governor said that those are the statistics he would use. He didn't think Job Service was reflecting all the data. We need to look at both systems. The BIA is not a complete study. REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: Mr. Iverson gave a copy of Fed law that says we need to use BIA statistics. If we use 4 year old information the clock stops. SENATOR DEMERS: I was not aware of the Federal mandate. Does it provide it has to be retroactive? REPRESENTATIVE PORTER provided facts from fact sheet from Job Service. SENATOR DEMERS: It says IF the most appropriate. It does not say BIA is appropriate. Maybe the letters and tribes have changed their interpretation. REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: The bottom line is appropriate statistics would be from BIA. Job Service statistics are not reliable. SENATOR DEMERS: You would agree that is the Department's interpretation? REP. PORTER: Yes. SENATOR DEMERS: I move that the

Senate accede to the House amendments and further amend to change the word conflict to question. REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN seconded it. SENATOR DEMERS: I would like it noted in minutes that I see this as an incomplete study since Job Service is not specifically mentioned but I am willing to agree to the House position that we don't need to do it. Rep. Porter reviewed the Job Service statistics to SENATOR LEE, who had to be absent for a brief period of time. SENATOR LEE: I don't see the two bills being the same. SENATOR THANE: I will raise the question if I am on the committee. Roll call vote carried on the amendment 6-0-0. Roll call vote on DO PASS AS AMENDED carried 6-0-0. SENATOR THANE will carry the bill.

Date Mar 29, 99

Roll call vote # 1

Please type or use black pen to complete

1997 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4036

Senate _____ Committee _____

Subcommittee on _____ (Identify or

Conference Committee Human Services (check where appropriate

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____
Action Taken Senate accede to House amendments + further amend to chg the word "conflict" to "question"

Motion Made By Sen. De Mers Seconded By Rep. Galvin

Senators	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
<u>Shane</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Galvin</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Lee</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Porter</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>De Mers</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Metcalf</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total 6 0
(Yes) (No)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTER ON ANY FORMS

Date Mar 29, 99

Roll call vote # 2

Please type or use black pen to complete

1997 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4036

Senate _____ Committee _____

Subcommittee on _____ (Identify or

Conference Committee Human Services (check where appropriate)

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ~~Amendment to H~~ Do Pass as amended.

Motion Made By _____

Seconded By _____

Senators	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
<u>Shane</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Halvin</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Lee</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Porter</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>DeMars</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Metcalf</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Total 6 0
(Yes) (No)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen Shane

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTER ON ANY FORMS

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SCR 4036, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Thane, Lee, DeMers and Reps. Galvin, Porter, Metcalf) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments on SJ page 773, adopt amendments as follows, and place SCR 4036 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 773 of the Senate Journal and pages 860 and 861 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4036 be amended as follows:

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"WHEREAS, while federal law requires states to disregard the months of assistance received by an adult while living on an Indian reservation with at least fifty percent unemployment, a question has arisen as to the method to be used to determine unemployment rate statistics; and"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, evaluate the use of the Bureau of Indian Affairs unemployment rate statistics to determine if adults within an Indian reservation are exempt from the state's lifetime limit under the temporary assistance for needy families program and evaluate and consider other methods of determining the unemployment rate specifically as it applies to those areas; and"

Renumber accordingly

Engrossed SCR 4036 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

SCR 4036

DRAFT

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
Of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Senator Bercier

Representative

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the operation of the temporary assistance for needy families program in North Dakota as it relates to the relationship between the state and the federally recognized Indian tribes in the state.

WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 provides the state of North Dakota with an annual temporary assistance for needy families block grant to assist needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; and

WHEREAS, the temporary assistance for needy families block grant allows states some flexibility in the design of the program; and

WHEREAS, the temporary assistance for needy families block grant requires recipients of assistance to meet certain work requirements and limits the number of months an adult may receive such assistance; and

WHEREAS, an increasing percent of the recipients of assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families block grant in North Dakota are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of these individuals reside on Indian reservations within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Indian reservations are located in the rural areas of the state and are economically depressed; and

WHEREAS, the effective coordination and cooperation between the state, tribe and local governments is critical to the success of the welfare programs;

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

That the Legislative Council study the design and implementation of the temporary assistance for needy families program in North Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, evaluate the impact of the temporary assistance for needy families program on the federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council review the process through which the department of human services receives input from the local governments and the federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council consider the impact of tribal sovereignty on economic development and the implementation of the temporary assistance for needy families program in areas under the jurisdiction of federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.

Three Affiliated Tribes
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Tribal Administration Building
HC3 Box 2
New Town, North Dakota 58763
Tel. (701) 627-3621
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Human Services Committee
North Dakota House of Representatives
56th Legislative Assembly

Testimony of Thomas M. Disselhorst
Attorney at Law
on SCR 4036

March 16, 1999

Thank you, Madame. Chair, for the opportunity to testify on SCR 4036, which is a study resolution intended to assist in coordinating efforts between Tribes and the state of North Dakota to implement Federal legislation passed in 1996 that changed fundamentally the way assistance is provided to those most in need. For identification purposes, I am counsel for United Tribes Technical College and also a staff attorney for the Three Affiliated Tribes. In these positions, I have followed the welfare reform issue as it relates to Tribes for several years, and I am also a member of a national task force on this issue.

During the past biennium, another, very similar study resolution was considered by the Interim Welfare Reform Committee. Unfortunately, no legislation was developed as a result of this study, although much good information was obtained.

The issues are critical for the state, Tribes, and the Indian citizens of North Dakota for several reasons:

- 1) A large percentage, approximately 55%, of all Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients are Native Americans;
- 2) This percentage seems to be growing, partly as a result of the still weak economic growth on the Indian reservations, and partly because Tribal members are continuing to come back to the reservations for various reasons, and, if work is not available, these persons qualify for TANF; and
- 3) Tribal populations are the fastest growing segment of North Dakota's population, thus if the Tribal economies stay weak, the welfare rolls will continue to grow.

This alone should be enough reason for the state, which continues to administer welfare programs, even on the reservations, to want to study how welfare reform efforts should be coordinated among the tribe and the state. There are two other basic reasons peculiar to the Federal welfare reform law.

Testimony on SCR 4036
Thomas M. Disselhorst, Esq.
March 16, 1999
House Human Services Committee
Page 2 of 2

1) The state must include all segments of the welfare case load in determining its "work participation rate" . Under the Federal law, the state must meet mandatory "work participation rates" or face losing up to 23% of its Federal welfare dollars. Simply stated, jobs need to be created on or near the reservations, and be created quickly, for the state to meet its work participate rate goals by the year 2002, when the state's five year plan is to be completed.

2) The critical component of welfare reform is the lifetime time limit for welfare assistance. In North Dakota, that limit is the maximum allowed by Federal law, 60 months. We are now almost 21 months into that 60 month period. By the start of the next legislative session, we will be 42 months into that period. It is critical that as soon as possible, the state and the Tribes begin working together to create meaningful jobs for welfare recipients, because if they are not created, beginning in 2002, many mothers with children will no longer be eligible for assistance. I have not seen any suggestion of planning for what will happen when people begin to be automatically denied benefits. This is softened somewhat by the up to 20% of recipients exclusion from the mandatory 60 month limit, but only somewhat.

In conclusion, members of the Committee, I urge you to give a unanimous DO PASS to SCR 4036. It is essential that the Legislative Council give this Resolution a priority when it considers matters to be studied between legislative sessions.