

2009 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4014

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 4014

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/09/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8995

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator Lee Opened the hearing on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014.

Barb Schweitzer Director of Newborn Screening for the ND Department of Health. Introduced the SB 4014. See attachment #1.

Senator Heckaman How did you pick October 15th?

Schweitzer There are eight other states that use that date.

Burnie Kunz Chaplain at Medcenter 1. Spoke in support. See attachment #2.

Senator Lee My only question is why is this is only directed at infants and lost pregnancies?

Kunz They have titled it that but we have stretched this to incorporate everyone who has lost a child. I cannot speak for the national resolution.

Dana Schweitzer Parent who lost a child. Spoke in support. See attachment #3.

There was no opposition or neutral testimony submitted.

Senator Lee Closed the hearing on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014.

Senator Heckaman I move **Do Pass**.

Senator Dever Second

The Clerk called the role on the motion to **Do Pass**. **Yes: 5, No: 0, Absent: 1 (Senator**

Marcellais). **Senator Pomeroy will carry the bill.**

Date: 2-9-09

Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4014

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Adopt Amendment Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Heckaman Seconded By Sen. Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Robert Erbele, V.Chair	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais		
Senator Dick Dever	✓		Senator Jim Pomeroy	✓	

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Senator Pomeroy

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 9, 2009 1:31 p.m.

Module No: SR-25-2145
Carrier: Pomeroy
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4014: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4014 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SCR 4014

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4014

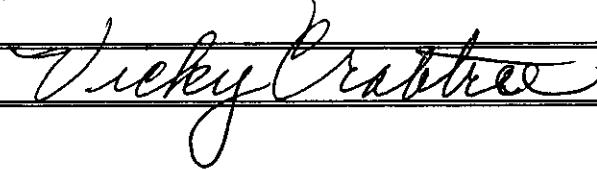
House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 23, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11429

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

ViceChair Pietsch opened the hearing on SCR 4014.

Kjersti Hintz from the Department of Health: See Testimony #1.

Rep. Potter: Does October 15 have any other significance?

Kjersti Hintz: October 15 is the national remembrance day. This passed in 2006 nationally and we are trying to follow the national.

Misty Schafer: See Testimony # 2.

Misty Schafer read Burnie Kunz's testimony. See Testimony #3.

Dana Schweitzer: See Testimony #4.

NO OPPOSITION.

ViceChair Pietsch closed the hearing on SCR 4014.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4014

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 23, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11429

Committee Clerk Signature

Wicky Crabtree

Minutes:

ViceChair Pietsch: SCR 4014

Rep. Kilichowski: Motion a Do Pass and put on consent calendar.

Rep. Potter: Second.

Voice Vote: Motion Carried.

MOTION CARRIED.

BILL CARRIER: Rep. Potter.

Date: 3-23-09

Roll Call Vote #:

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4014

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Kilichowski Seconded By Rep. Potter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ			REP. TOM CONKLIN		
VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH			REP. KARI L CONRAD		
REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN			REP. RICHARD HOLMAN		
REP. ROBERT FRANTSVOG			REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI		
REP. CURT HOFSTAD			REP. LOUISE POTTER		
REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE					
REP. TODD PORTER					
REP. GERRY UGLEM					

Total (Yes) 9 No 0

Absent 4

Bill Carrier Rep. Potter

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

Put on consent calendar

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4014: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (9 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4014 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

SCR 4014

1

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014
Senate Human Services Committee
Monday, February 9, 2009; 11:30 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

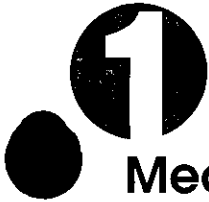
Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Barb Schweitzer, and I am the director of Newborn Screening for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014, which would recognize October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Every year in North Dakota, approximately 50 infants younger than the age of 1 die. The causes of these deaths include premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, accidents and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). An average of seven infants die every year from SIDS. The North Dakota Department of Health, in compliance with Century Code 23-01-05, provides information to the surviving family of a child whose cause of death is suspected to have been from SIDS. Providing education and awareness to all North Dakotans is also an important component to our SIDS program.

No matter the cause of death, family members and friends will experience grief when a baby dies. Grief is very personal and is the combination of sorrow, strong emotion and the resulting confusion that comes from losing someone important to you. From the educational resources and visits we provide to family members and other caregivers through our SIDS program, we know what a positive effect support and recognition can have on the healing process.

Every life, even the tiniest and shortest-lived, needs to be acknowledged and remembered. Declaring October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance day will ensure the recognition deserved for all babies who have died too soon, whether from early pregnancy loss or infant death.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Medcenter One

medcenterone.com

North Dakota 2009 Legislative Session
Senate – Human Services Committee
Testimony in favor of SCR 4014
February 9, 2009

*Same
Sent to the
House*

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My name is Burnie Kunz. I have been a chaplain at Medcenter One for 22 years and presently serve as Pastoral Care Coordinator for the department. I have been in ministry for 40 years, serving in parishes and institutions.

I am here to ask your support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014. This resolution will support North Dakota families to resolve their grief related to the loss of a pregnancy or infant.

I have dealt with many births and deaths over the years, however the death of an infant or child is one of the most painful occurrences life can bring for parents. Grandparents experience a double grief one for their adult child and one for their deceased grandchild.

In 2002, Medcenter One looked at how we could better meet the needs of those who grieve the loss of an infant/child. As a result, the Garden of Peace with the Angel of Hope was dedicated on October 7, 2007. It was the 74th Angel of Hope in the nation. (Please note brochure.) Grand Forks and Fargo also have an Angel of Hope. Each year a burial/memorial service is held at the Garden of Peace in Fairview Cemetery on October 15, the national Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. We also have a Christmas Remembrance Service every December 6 where families put an ornament with their infant/child's name on a tree. This began with the remembrance of 34 infants/children in 2004. This last December, we remembered 93 babies with over 100 people in attendance.

This past Christmas, one parent called from Ohio to have her ornament sent to her. Another family had moved to Montana and had a friend place their three Christmas ornaments on the tree. A woman who had lost her 45 year old son this past summer placed a bulb on the tree for her "baby". People, who have lost infants or children 40-50 years ago, now find a way to acknowledge their grief.

Grief heals us. We've all experienced cuts to the skin, whether a minor paper cut, a gash suffered while chopping vegetables, or something even more serious. Observe the process: sudden, sharp pain, followed by blood flow. Then, the need to attend to the still-painful wound and await healing, fostered by proper follow-up care.

Loss and grief follow a parallel process on the emotional level. We feel the sharp pain of loss when a loved one dies. Our tears flow. Then we need to "tend to our wound," which is what the process of grieving is all about. The wound still hurts, at times sharply, but if we are patient and attentive, healing does come - slowly, organically, in the same way that a physical wound heals.

Grief, well attended, encourages our healing. This resolution is part of the healing process. I support this resolution for the sake of grieving parents, siblings, and other family members and friends living in North Dakota. I am here today to ask for your support.

This concludes my testimony. I would be glad to entertain any questions you may have.

Chairperson and committee members I stand before you today to show my support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014. I am Dana Schweitzer and my husband and I lost our ten and half month daughter Lakin Ann to Myocarditis on September 10, 2008.

Loosing a child affects so many others in many different ways like miscarriage, still birth, SIDS, or other infant losses. There are some parents or family members who remain silent about their loss, but by declaring October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance day, will bring us all together. It will be a day to honor our babies that have left us too soon yesterday, today, tomorrow and always. I had this Concurrent Resolution created to honor my daughter Lakin and for others to honor their children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews or friends. I recommend a due pass on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014.

Finding a sense of peace



The Angel of Hope sculpture is the creation of a father and son from Salt Lake City, Ortho and Jared Fairbanks. It was modeled according to the description in "The Christmas Box," a story about a woman who mourns the loss of her baby. If you look closely, engraved in each angel's right wing is the word "hope." It is designed to provide encouragement for families grieving the loss of a child.

Lois Schmidt began her journey of grief in 1954. That was when her first child, Jennifer, died shortly after birth. Schmidt never had the opportunity to hold little Jennifer, or attend her funeral. "Because I never saw her, I was never able to let it go," she said. During that era, no one talked with Schmidt about the baby, thinking it would help her get on with her life. "If I wasn't supposed to remember her, God wouldn't have given her to me," Schmidt said.

It wasn't until the Infant Memorial Service, an annual event sponsored by Medcenter One's infant bereavement program, that she found what she had sought all those years. As part of the service, parents wrote notes to the children they had lost and attached them to

helium balloons, then watched in silence as they floated upward. Watching the balloons ascend into the summer sky, Schmidt said she felt a sense of peace and closure that she hadn't known for the past 50 years.

"That was the closest I had ever felt to Jennifer," Schmidt said. "Nobody saw what I wrote. It was a personal thing between her and me, writing a note and signing it 'Mom.' It was as if the balloon were going straight to heaven."

She believes that had there been a program like this when she lost her daughter, it would have initially given her the closure that instead eluded her for so long. "My grieving went on for 50 some years," she said. "I'm now at peace."

Bless you and thank you for remembering the little ones who were lost much too soon.

Please send donation with completed form to:
Medcenter One Foundation
300 N. Seventh St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
For more information, please call 323-8450 or visit us online at medcenterone.com.



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Garden of Peace



What we remember lives on.



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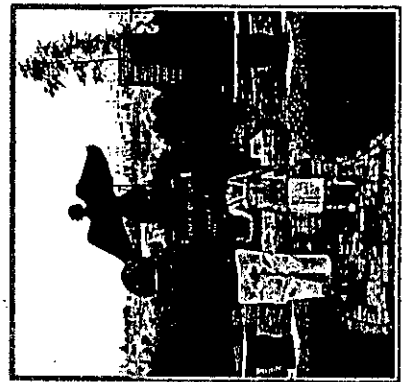
"The Christmas Box"

Written by Richard Paul Evans, "The Christmas Box" is a story of a woman who mourns the loss of her child.

Evans, who wrote the fictional tale as a Christmas present for his young daughters, began the project writing about an entirely different subject—a father who worked too much. While writing the original version, however, Evans would be interrupted by an image in his mind's eye, a vision of a young woman tearfully grieving at the base of a granite angel. It had nothing to do with his story and yet, it appeared and reappeared relentlessly. What did it mean?

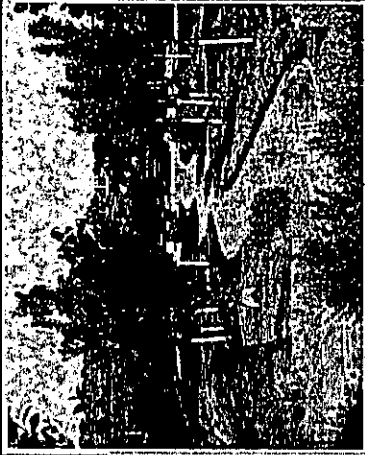
Then, while sitting at his kitchen table writing, Evans said he felt a spiritual presence and instinctively knew that it was his little sister, Sue, who had been stillborn when he was just a toddler. His little sister was carrying a message to him. She would inspire him to write a story about a young mother often seen weeping at the foot of a granite angel, grieving the death of her tiny baby, unwilling and unable to forget the precious life that had offered so much promise but ended so suddenly and too soon.

Though Evans' book was meant only to reflect his love for his daughters and offer

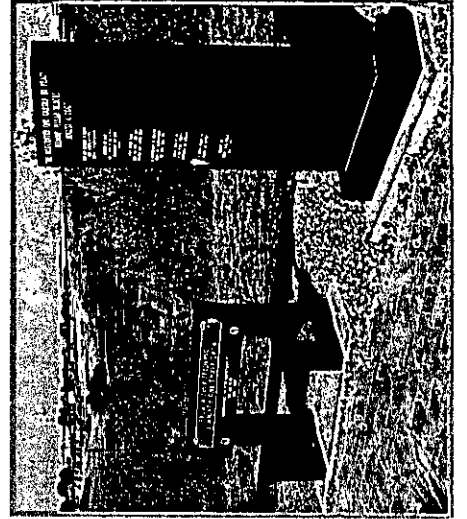


comfort and reconciliation to his mother, many related to the tender story. The angel monument, depicted in the story, actually existed in a Salt Lake City cemetery. Over time, countless more Angels of Hope have been thoughtfully placed in parks and cemeteries throughout the country.

Garden of Peace



Medcenter One has partnered with Fairview Cemetery and area funeral homes to offer a place of burial and memorial for babies and young sons and daughters who have died too soon. The Garden of Peace is located on a beautiful bluff at the southwest corner of Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck. Professionally landscaped, the park-like setting features a paved walkway with granite benches, surrounded by shade-bearing trees and flowering perennials. Grieving parents, family members and friends have found the Garden of Peace to be a place that offers opportunity for quiet reflection. The focal point of the Garden of Peace is the Angel of Hope statue, inspired by Richard Evans' story, "The Christmas Box", and granite memory pillars, inscribed with messages of love commemorating a special baby or child.



Memory pillars provide a place for families to memorialize, for all time, a child of any age lost too soon. For details on how a child can be remembered forever, please contact the Medcenter One Foundation at 323-8450.

Yes, we would like to remember a special child with an engraved message on the Memory Pillar. Please have someone from the Medcenter One Foundation contact us with specific details regarding the length of our message and the associated costs.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Daytime phone number: _____

Yes, I/we believe that all life has meaning and purpose. I/we would like to commemorate the life of a very special child with our gift of \$_____ as enclosed.

Our gift is in memory of: _____

Our gift is in honor of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement of our memorial gift to: _____

Please check one:

My/our check is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to the Medcenter One Foundation.)

Please process my gift through my credit card.

Type of credit card: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Name: _____

Street address or P.O. box address: _____

City, state: _____

ZIP: _____

#1

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014
House Human Services Committee
Monday, March 23, 2009 - 3 p.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

Good afternoon, Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Kjersti Hintz, and I am the Maternal and Child Health Nurse Consultant for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014, which would recognize October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Every year in North Dakota approximately 50 infants younger than the age of 1 die. The causes of these deaths include premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, accidents and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). An average of seven infants dies every year from SIDS. The North Dakota Department of Health, in compliance with Century Code 23-01-05, provides information to the surviving family of a child whose cause of death is suspected to have been from SIDS. Providing education and awareness to all North Dakotans is also an important component to our SIDS program.

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Every life, even the tiniest and shortest-lived, needs to be acknowledged and remembered. Declaring October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance day will ensure the recognition deserved for all babies who have died too soon, whether from early pregnancy loss or infant death.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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North Dakota 2009 Legislative Session
House – Human Services Committee
Testimony in favor of SCR 4014
March 23, 2009

Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

I am here to ask your support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014. This resolution will support other North Dakota families like mine.

My name is Misty Schafer. On April 13th 2007, my husband and I were overcome with grief when our daughter, Kassidy Rayann was stillborn at 23 weeks and 5 days. She weighed 11 ounces and was 9 ½ inches long. The days following the birth of a child are supposed to be filled with joy and time spent getting to know your new addition, but not ours, they were filled with grief, confusion and funeral arrangements. It was the hardest time of our lives, but we made it through one day at a time and with the support of family, friends and strangers. We received cards and guest book signings from people who we did not even know, but had been through the same thing and wanted us to know they were there for us if we needed them. You do not realize how many families suffer the loss of a child until it happens to you. I have found many moms like myself who after losing a child, have the urge to reach out and help someone else.

I spent a lot of time reading on the internet and that is where I ran across the website for October 15th, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance day. I found myself feeling a little better knowing that I was not alone and that there were those who had suffered such a loss that were reaching out to help others who are going through the same thing.

I had this feeling that I needed to do something to help, although I did not know what that was, until one day I found myself in Chaplin Bernie Kunz's office at Medcenter

One, she is the contact for the Infant and Child Bereavement Program. From that moment I have been involved with the program and we are dedicated to continue to develop the program by creating local resources for those families who are grieving.

It has been almost two years since we lost our little girl, but everyday she is with me, and every time I hear that infant loss happens to another family, my heart breaks. Having October 15th recognized in North Dakota, would help to ease the grief of those families like mine. I urge the House Human Services Committee to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014.

#4

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014
House Human Services Committee
Monday, March 23, 2009; 3:00 pm

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee I stand before you today to show my support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014. I am Dana Schweitzer and my husband and I lost our almost eleven month old daughter Lakin Ann to Myocarditis on September 10, 2008. Loosing a child affects so many others in many different ways like miscarriage, still birth, SIDS, or other infant losses. There are some parents or family members who remain silent about their loss, but by declaring October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance day, will bring us all together. It will be a day to honor our babies that have left us too soon yesterday, today, tomorrow and always. I had this Concurrent Resolution created to honor my daughter Lakin and for others to honor their children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews or friends. I recommend a due pass on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014.