

2.1 WHEREAS, parents of persons with developmental disabilities were sometimes advised to
2.2 institutionalize their children, and to break their familial bonds by making them wards of the state
2.3 irrespective of the family's and community's ability to support and nurture these children; and

2.4 WHEREAS, these fellow Minnesotans were portrayed by some as subhuman organisms, as
2.5 deviant individuals to be feared by society, and as eternal children unaccountable for their behavior
2.6 and incapable of speaking for themselves or shaping their own lives, which greatly diminished
2.7 their fellow citizens' ability and willingness to accept them for their own unique qualities; and

2.8 WHEREAS, institutional care for persons with developmental disabilities has been
2.9 scientifically demonstrated to be detrimental to people's basic development, including social
2.10 development, development of self-determination, and the development of the basic skills of
2.11 daily living; and

2.12 WHEREAS, many Minnesotans once viewed this institutional treatment as acceptable and
2.13 subjected tens of thousands of citizens to it, but now recognize how wrong this treatment was; and

2.14 WHEREAS, Minnesota's state institutions are closing and, through this process, their
2.15 history and the acknowledgment of our collective responsibility for it may be forgotten; and

2.16 WHEREAS, people who were relegated to state institutions and their families have never
2.17 received a formal apology from the state; and

2.18 WHEREAS, the states of Virginia, Oregon, South Carolina, California, and North Carolina
2.19 have apologized for similar actions towards people with disabilities in their own states; NOW,
2.20 THEREFORE,

2.21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota on behalf of the citizens of
2.22 the state that the state apologize publicly to all persons with mental illness and developmental and
2.23 other disabilities who have been wrongfully committed to state institutions, acknowledging that it
2.24 regrets this history of institutionalization of persons with those disabilities, and that it commits
2.25 itself in their memory to move steadfastly to help Minnesotans with those disabilities who in the
2.26 future turn to the state for services to receive them in the least restrictive manner.

2.27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is
2.28 directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution and transmit it publicly to appropriate
2.29 organizations of people with disabilities and to the news media.