

Introduced by

Senators Dever, J. Lee

Representatives Meier, J. Nelson

1 A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to consider studying the status
2 and importance of coordinated palliative care to develop solutions, tools, and best practices for
3 providing better patient-centered care and information to North Dakotans with chronic diseases.

4 **WHEREAS**, palliative care means patient- and family-centered medical care that optimizes
5 quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering caused by serious illness; and

6 **WHEREAS**, palliative care administered throughout the continuum of illness involves
7 addressing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs that facilitate patient autonomy,
8 access to information, and choice; and

9 **WHEREAS**, palliative care includes discussions of the patient's goals for treatment,
10 treatment options appropriate to the patient, including hospice care, and comprehensive pain
11 and symptom management; and

12 **WHEREAS**, all patients experiencing complex, chronic health issues that affect quality of
13 life should be offered palliative care as an option, as palliative care is appropriate at any age
14 and at any stage, and can be provided along with curative treatment; and

15 **WHEREAS**, when palliative care programs are provided, a larger percentage of hospice
16 patients are identified earlier in their eligibility window, enabling them to take advantage of
17 valuable services for a longer period of time; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the United States health care system faces an increased burden with spikes in
19 the senior citizen population, coupled with increases in persons with complex chronic conditions
20 and more people gaining access to health care through insurance coverage for the first time;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, recent studies indicate that by closely matching treatment with a patient's goals
23 and improving the patient's quality of life, palliative care can provide substantial cost reduction;
24 and

1 **WHEREAS**, a population trained about the benefits of palliative care boosts our medical
2 and social care workforce; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the formation of a state palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary
4 advisory council and a palliative care information and education program within the State
5 Department of Health would maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state
6 by ensuring comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is
7 available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Assembly recognizes the importance of coordinated palliative
9 care as a quality of life issue, as a way to improve the quality and delivery of health care
10 services, and as a way to more effectively spend limited health care dollars;

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

13 That the Legislative Management consider studying the status and importance of
14 coordinated palliative care to develop solutions, tools, and best practices for providing better
15 patient-centered care and information to North Dakotans with chronic diseases; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
17 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
18 the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly.