

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3038**

Introduced by

Representatives S. Meyer, Boe, Delmore, Ekstrom, Mueller, Schneider

1 A concurrent resolution supporting the efforts of the President of the United States, the North
2 Dakota Congressional Delegation, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, North
3 Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and United States Attorney Drew Wrigley to make
4 prescription drugs safer and more affordable and urging Congress to take the necessary
5 actions to study the lifesaving value, affordability, accessibility, and efficacy of prescription
6 drugs for all Americans.

7 **WHEREAS**, President George W. Bush has significantly led the federal effort to create
8 and sign into law the Medicaid Part D program that has brought the total number of people on
9 Medicare who receive comprehensive prescription drug coverage to more than 29 million; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Congressman Earl Pomeroy is cochair of the Rural Health Care Coalition,
11 a bipartisan coalition of members of Congress committed to advancing rural priorities in health
12 care policy; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Senator Kent Conrad has made the cost of health care in this state one of
14 his top concerns, supporting efforts to improve access to generic drugs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Senator Byron Dorgan supports reforms to improve access to affordable
16 prescription drugs, including efforts to improve the Medicare drug benefit and efforts to make
17 prescription drug importation safe and legal; and

18 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has worked tirelessly
19 over the past six years to investigate, prosecute, and seek convictions of drug pushers and
20 prescription drug counterfeiters; and

21 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, through bipartisan
22 laws passed by the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly, has provided over \$11 million in savings
23 to over 18,000 of our state's elderly and Medicaid-eligible residents by helping those residents
24 gain access to free and reduced cost pharmaceutical drugs; and

1 **WHEREAS**, United States Attorney Drew Wrigley has worked tirelessly to investigate,
2 prosecute, and seek convictions of drug pushers and prescription drug counterfeiters; and

3 **WHEREAS**, studies indicate that access to affordable prescription drugs results in
4 decreased medical expenses; and

5 **WHEREAS**, prescription drug costs in the United States produce significant financial
6 impacts on insured individuals, Medicare recipients, state and federal Medicaid expenditures,
7 state and federal children's health insurance program expenditures, and uninsured individuals;

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

10 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports the efforts of the President of the United
11 States, the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne
12 Stenehjem, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, and United States Attorney
13 Drew Wrigley to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable and urges the Congress of
14 the United States to take the necessary actions to study the lifesaving value, affordability,
15 accessibility, and efficacy of prescription drugs for all Americans; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
17 resolution to the President of the United States, each member of the North Dakota
18 Congressional Delegation, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota
19 Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, and United States Attorney Drew Wrigley.