

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4—  
Committee on Health and Education

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging certain agencies which provide child welfare services to develop a standardized practice model and to address certain issues related to child and family services.

WHEREAS, The Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Clark County Department of Family Services and the Washoe County Department of Social Services provide vital child and family services in this State by helping to ensure the safety and protection of children and by providing necessary services to families; and

WHEREAS, Minority children represent a disproportionate number of children who are placed in foster care in this State, including African Americans who represent 19.7 percent of children entering foster care, but represent only 8.4 percent of the general population; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that child abuse and neglect are symptoms of an extreme disturbance in child rearing and frequently part of a milieu of severe family problems such as poverty, alcoholism, substance abuse or limited parenting skills; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that the risk of child abuse can be lessened through such preventive strategies as strengthening parenting skills, providing support for families in crisis, facilitating children's social and emotional development, and linking families to services and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Models for providing child and family services which focus on the preservation of the family while ensuring the safe protection of children provide a comprehensive and systematic method for family-centered support and intervention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby urge the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Clark County Department of Family Services and the Washoe County Department of Social Services, in consultation with other key stakeholders connected to the safety and welfare of children in this State, to:

1. Develop a statewide standardized practice model for providing child and family services which focuses on the



preservation of the family while ensuring the safe protection of children;

2. Assess the disproportionate number of minority children placed in foster care in this State and develop a strategy to address the disproportionality, including a mechanism for the ongoing collection and tracking of related data;

3. Identify targets to reduce, in a safe and efficient manner, the number of children in foster care and implement a system to monitor the reduction efforts;

4. Ensure that allegations of child abuse and neglect are investigated properly before removing children from their homes;

5. Study and assess the prescription and administration of psychotropic medications to children placed in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services in this State; and

6. Develop and implement an assessment to determine the safety or risk of allowing a child to remain in his home; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Clark County Department of Family Services and the Director of the Washoe County Department of Social Services.

