

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4—
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE INTERIM STUDY ON THE PLACEMENT
OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE)

PREFILED JANUARY 23, 2009

Referred to Committee on Health and Education

SUMMARY—Urges certain agencies which provide child welfare services to develop a standardized practice model and to address certain issues related to child and family services. (BDR R-476)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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.

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Research shows that the risk of child abuse can be
17 lessened through such preventive strategies as strengthening
18 parenting skills, providing support for families in crisis, facilitating



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1 children's social and emotional development, and linking families to
2 services and opportunities; and

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

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

16 1. Develop a statewide standardized practice model for
17 providing child and family services which focuses on the
18 preservation of the family while ensuring the safe protection of
19 children;

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

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

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

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

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

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

