

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

466Y0621

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1008

Introduced by: Representatives Lesmeister, Haggar, Jamison, McCleerey, and Steinhauer and
Senators Heinert, Ewing, Maher, and Netherton

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to develop a funding formula for the
2 United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service that
3 accurately reflects the true needs of various Indian Health Service regions.

4 WHEREAS, the United States has pledged to protect Native American tribes through an
5 obligation to deliver adequate health care to all enrolled tribal members including those tribal
6 members on and off the reservations located in South Dakota; and

7 WHEREAS, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie provided that the United States would provide
8 certain benefits to Native Americans including medical services; and

9 WHEREAS, the medical services obligations of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie have never
10 expired; and

11 WHEREAS, it has been demanded for decades that the health care services provided to
12 Native Americans be improved through better administration, improved facilities, and improved
13 quality of patient care; and

14 WHEREAS, despite the demands for improvement, the Indian Health Service has continued
15 to decline and has received citations by the Center for Medicare Services for substandard



1 healthcare and some Indian Health Service hospitals have had their Medicare provider
2 agreements revoked or suspended; and

3 WHEREAS, as a result of the poor quality of care, Native Americans of the Great Plains
4 Region suffer from the highest diabetes death rates, the highest tuberculosis death rates, and
5 higher incidences of other diseases than mainstream America, and the Great Plains Region has
6 the lowest life expectancy and second highest mortality rate among all Indian Health Service
7 regions in the United States:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
9 Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that Congress
10 be hereby requested to develop a funding formula for the United States Department of Health
11 and Human Services and the Indian Health Service that reflects federal treaty obligations to
12 cover one hundred percent of healthcare costs for enrolled Native Americans and is reflective
13 of the true needs of the various Indian Health Service regions.