



## 2021 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Commemoration 820

Introduced by: **Senator Heinert**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring and commending the Rosebud Tribe**  
 2 **and the Indian Health Service for efficiently allocating and delivering the**  
 3 **COVID-19 vaccine.**

4 WHEREAS, throughout history, Native communities have been devastated by pandemics,  
 5 including smallpox, the 1918 flu, and several others; and

6 WHEREAS, Tribal communities have designed and implemented policies in the wake of the  
 7 COVID-19 pandemic to effectively vaccinate their populations at nearly twice the rate of the  
 8 State of South Dakota; and

9 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service and the Rosebud Tribe hold two mass vaccination  
 10 clinics a week, with their dedicated officials driving up to one hundred miles in one direction  
 11 while braving dangerous weather conditions to vaccinate their most rural populations; and

12 WHEREAS, the Rosebud Tribe's effectiveness and success in vaccinating their people has  
 13 been shown by the incredibly low number of active cases; and

14 WHEREAS, Rosebud Indian Health Service has also given nonmembers access to the  
 15 vaccine to protect communities and the State of South Dakota:

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the State  
 17 of South Dakota, that the Legislature honors and commends the Rosebud Tribe and the Indian  
 18 Health Service for their service to the citizens of South Dakota and for their unrivaled  
 19 efficiency in vaccinating the Sicangu Oyate and the people of South Dakota.