

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

587S0335

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Introduced by: Senator Lederman and Representative Miller

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting and encouraging efforts by the South Dakota
2 Department of Corrections to reduce recidivism rates among juvenile offenders and to
3 promote community-based services for juvenile offenders in lieu of residential placement.

4 WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2008 in South Dakota the rate of recidivism for juveniles, or the
5 percentage of youth who had successfully completed a residential program in the previous
6 twelve months and were subsequently returned to a residential program, was forty-six percent;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, removing juveniles from their families, homes, schools, and communities and
9 placing them in residential programs is not always the most appropriate or effective criminal
10 justice response, and in fact, removing such youth from a stable environment can be
11 counterproductive; and

12 WHEREAS, South Dakota can learn from the example set in the state of Iowa, where thirty-
13 four percent fewer youth have been placed in detention statewide since 2007 and the use of
14 community-based alternatives to incarceration has increased through the state's effort to reform
15 juvenile detention practices; and



1 WHEREAS, striking the right balance between the use of community-based treatments and
2 incarceration is an important goal that must be met in South Dakota for the benefit of our state's
3 youth:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-sixth Legislature of
5 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature
6 supports and encourages the efforts of the South Dakota Department of Corrections to reduce
7 recidivism rates among juvenile offenders and to enhance the use of community-based
8 alternatives to incarceration for juveniles.