

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2012

709T0604

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1001

Introduced by: Representatives Gibson, Fargen, Kirkeby, Perry, Romkema, Turbiville, and Wismer and Senators Buhl, Frerichs, Maher, and Peters

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the week of January 22, 2012, through
2 January 28, 2012, as Reproductive Rights Awareness Week.

3 WHEREAS, women comprise more than half of the population of the United States of
4 America and are solely responsible for childbearing; and

5 WHEREAS, women who plan their pregnancies are more likely to seek prenatal care,
6 improving their own health and the health of their children; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States of America ranks thirtieth in the world in its rate of maternal
8 mortality and has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality among all developed nations;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, family planning services improve health care outcomes and wellness for
11 women and families, access to family planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and
12 infant mortality rates, and women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times more
13 likely to die after a live birth than are women who have received even minimal prenatal care;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better prevent unintended pregnancies and



1 plan for pregnancy when they do want to have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive
2 services and supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each year in the United
3 States; and

4 WHEREAS, nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in abortion and abortion rates in
5 the United States of America increase during times when contraception is less accessible to low
6 income women; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States of America has one of the highest rates of unintended
8 pregnancy among the world's developed nations, half of all the pregnancies in the United States
9 are unintended, and half of unintended pregnancies occur in women who are not using
10 contraceptives; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing women to plan and prepare for
12 pregnancy, other health benefits of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and
13 ovarian cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to heavy menstruation,
14 osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic inflammatory disease; and

15 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are particularly pronounced in reproductive
16 health - including disparities in rates of contraception usage, unintended pregnancies, maternal
17 mortality, and sexually transmitted infections - and these disparities reveal significant barriers
18 to access to sexual health care, including contraception, medical care, and medically accurate
19 sexuality education; and

20 WHEREAS, a majority of American voters believe that matters related to women's
21 reproductive rights, including contraception and abortion, are personal issues that should be
22 decided by women with their families, health care providers and/or clergy members:

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
24 seventh Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the week

1 of January 22-28, 2012, be recognized as Reproductive Rights Awareness Week, to encourage
2 public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive rights and justice nationwide.