

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

436Y0518

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Bordeaux and Lesmeister

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the establishment of a truth and healing
2 conciliation commission for the purpose of studying race relations among Native Americans
3 and the State of South Dakota.

4 WHEREAS, The Great Sioux Nation has faced treaty violations and systemic corruption
5 that resulted in the loss of their most sacred lands, followed by an epidemic of young ones being
6 removed from their homes, families, and traditions - a problem so widespread that it has
7 decimated the generation charged with carrying their culture forward and continues today to
8 cause poverty, suicide, and hardship; and

9 WHEREAS, the truth and healing conciliation commission would make recommendations
10 for improving relations in the spirit of Governor Mickelson's 1990 "Year of Reconciliation"
11 proclamation, and the commission would work to promote understanding, cooperation, and
12 awareness among Native Americans and all races within the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of Maine and the Wabnaki tribes, Canada and its indigenous peoples,
14 South Africa, and others have utilized truth and conciliation commissions to expose the truth
15 and to offer healing to those affected by past government acts; and



1 WHEREAS, a truth and healing conciliation commission may be utilized for the following
2 purposes: to take testimony from those affected by past government policies and actions
3 involving Native Americans; to identify how it impacted lives so that stories will not be lost in
4 U.S. history; to release a comprehensive report focused on the impacts and ongoing effects of
5 policy toward tribes; to provide recommendations on how to begin an official process of
6 healing, which includes specific ways to address the effects of government policy; and to
7 provide recommendations to the state on how to move toward increased tribal involvement,
8 communication, and respect for each tribe's sovereignty; and

9 WHEREAS, the formation of a truth and healing conciliation commission aims to uncover
10 and acknowledge the truth, to create opportunities to heal and learn from that truth, and to
11 collaborate on best practices for moving forward; and

12 WHEREAS, truth and conciliation is an ongoing process with commitments from the
13 members of the tribes and their respective governments and state government:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
15 Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
16 Dakota Legislature encourages and supports the formation of a truth and healing conciliation
17 commission to oversee a full explication of past and present policies affecting tribes and their
18 members and chart a path forward for the healing and empowerment of America's original
19 inhabitants.