



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6009

Introduced by: **Representative Jensen (Phil)**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Condemning Rape as a tactic of war.**

2 WHEREAS, international law has prohibited rape and other forms of sexual violence
3 against women during armed conflict for over a century; and

4 WHEREAS, the four Geneva Conventions and their two additional protocols implicitly and
5 explicitly condemn rape as well as other forms of sexual violence; and

6 WHEREAS, rape and other forms of sexual violence are considered grave breaches of the
7 Geneva Convention and are war crimes; and

8 WHEREAS, Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that women shall be
9 especially protected against any attack on their honor, in particular against rape, enforced
10 prostitution, or any form of indecent assault; and

11 WHEREAS, the International Committee of the Red Cross stresses that rape and other
12 forms of sexual violence are considered to be grave breaches; and

13 WHEREAS, Hamas has committed many atrocities since its attack on October 7, 2023,
14 including rape and sexual violence; and

15 WHEREAS, first responders in Israel told reporters the October 7th attack was
16 overwhelmingly gruesome and many female victims were found undressed and mutilated;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, there were instances of girls with broken pelvises or broken legs due to Hamas'
19 sexual violence; and

1 WHEREAS, Hamas has held an estimated one hundred thirty-six hostages, including
2 American citizens, for over one hundred days and are reluctant to release hostages due to
3 the horrendous abuse that could be reported; and

4 WHEREAS, the Israel Defense Forces released a statement saying that it remains
5 committed to returning all Israeli hostages and dismantling Hamas; and

6 WHEREAS, the details of Hamas' attack on Israel are so horrible, they cannot be further
7 detailed; and

8 WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has called on all people, governments, international
9 organizations, civil society, and businesses, to forcefully condemn the sexual violence of
10 Hamas terrorists without equivocation; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield,
12 asked where the universal condemnation was and said that any gender-based violence should
13 not be sidelined:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth
15 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature
16 condemns the use of rape as a tactic of war.