



## 2022 South Dakota Legislature

# House Concurrent Resolution 6010

Introduced by: **Representative** Jamie Smith

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the initiatives of the Sisseton Wahpeton**  
 2 **Oyate.**

3 WHEREAS, during the State of the Tribes, Tribal Chairman Delbert Hopkins Junior of the  
 4 Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate called on the Legislature to support certain goals and initiatives of  
 5 the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and to work in partnership with the tribal nations recognized  
 6 by this state; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature was called upon to support Native language revitalization  
 8 programs, given that tribal nations bring a deep sense of connection, relationships, and  
 9 knowledge to their children's education. Native language and culture immersion programs  
 10 have been shown to provide Native children the chance to build a strong foundation for future  
 11 success in education and life; and

12 WHEREAS, the Legislature was called upon to support full federal funding for the  
 13 construction of Bureau of Indian Education schools. The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate population  
 14 has grown significantly in the past fifty years and is projected to double again in the next  
 15 twenty years. Currently, four hundred children are in need of a new school. Research shows  
 16 that the physical condition of a school plays an important role in student success, affecting  
 17 student and teacher attendance, teacher retention and recruitment, child and teacher health,  
 18 and the quality of curriculum; and

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature was called upon to support federal green energy programs for  
 20 tribal nations, because along with education, tribal nations need jobs and opportunity. For  
 21 decades, the poorest counties in the United States have been among Sioux reservation  
 22 counties. Unemployment on reservations can soar above seventy-five percent. Clean energy,  
 23 food sovereignty, and value-added agriculture are important to create jobs, self-sufficiency,  
 24 and sustainable food sources for tribal nations; and

1        WHEREAS, the Legislature was called upon to enhance transportation planning between  
2 the state and its subdivisions, and tribal nations. To promote commerce, road, culvert, and  
3 bridge construction is needed, as well as cooperation between tribal nations and local, state,  
4 and federal transportation departments. Sound transportation planning and infrastructure  
5 benefits health, schools, emergency services, economies, and everyday life; and

6        WHEREAS, the Legislature was called upon to work with Native nations to enhance  
7 cooperative public safety. Native communities are afflicted by fatal drug overdoses at five  
8 times the national average. Native people suffer violent crime at more than five times the  
9 national average, and Native communities have experienced the tragedy of murdered and  
10 missing indigenous people. Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate has invested in enhanced law  
11 enforcement and its adult detention center, and seeks to cooperate with local, state, and  
12 federal jurisdictions to interdict drugs:

13        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-  
14 Seventh Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
15 goals and initiatives of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate as described in the State of the Tribes  
16 are supported.