



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 607

Introduced by: **Senator Crabtree**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the Legislature to continue using**  
 2 **person-first language that acknowledges the person before any disability.**

3 WHEREAS, the Legislature is comprised of leaders from across the state who are looked  
 4 upon as role models for the citizens of South Dakota; and

5 WHEREAS, person-first language, which references the person first, rather than the  
 6 disability, is an integral aspect of respecting a person who has a disability, so as not to  
 7 diminish that person's humanity or natural condition of having a disability; and

8 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has evolved over the last  
 9 decade to prioritize person-centered planning and focus on the person, together with the  
 10 support that the person needs to achieve the person's life goals; and

11 WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities set a  
 12 standard for the use of person-first language, and the United Nations Disability Inclusion  
 13 Strategy has emphasized the careful use of words when referring to a person with a disability;  
 14 and

15 WHEREAS, terminology that references a person with a disability should not imply that  
 16 the person is disabled as a whole, equate the person with a condition, or have negative  
 17 overtones of a derogatory or demeaning effect; and

18 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of South Dakota finds it important and appropriate  
 19 that new and revised laws and rules should use terminology that puts the person before the  
 20 disability;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundredth Legislature of  
 22 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South  
 23 Dakota Legislature supports the continued use of language that puts a person first when  
 24 referring to persons with disabilities in South Dakota statutes and rules.