State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

774B0109

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Weis, Brunner, Dennert, Frye-Mueller, Greenfield (Lana), Howard, Livermont, Mulally, Peterson (Sue), Pischke, and Randolph and Senators Jensen (Phil), Monroe, Nelson, and Stalzer

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting that local school boards establish a code of ethics and professional responsibility for educators in public elementary and secondary schools.

WHEREAS, the purpose of public education in the United States is to produce knowledgeable and competent adults who are able to participate as informed citizens in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, it has been established that many teachers in public elementary and secondary school classrooms are abusing taxpayer resources and abusing their ability to speak to captive audiences of students in an attempt to indoctrinate or influence students to adopt specific political and ideological positions on issues of social and political controversy; and

WHEREAS, time spent on political or ideological indoctrination takes time away from instruction in the foundational academic subjects of mathematics, science, English, history, and civics and prevents students from receiving the best possible taxpayer-funded public education; and

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Insertions into existing statutes are indicated by underscores.
Deletions from existing statutes are indicated by ~~overstrikes~~.

WHEREAS, parents and taxpayers have a right to expect that tax revenue for schools will be spent on education and not on political or ideological indoctrination:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that each local school board is requested to establish a code of ethics and professional responsibility for educators in the school district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the code of ethics and professional responsibility provide that no public or elementary or secondary school teacher, regardless of continuing contract status, be permitted during class time or while otherwise operating within the scope of employment as a teacher to do the following:

(1) Endorse, support, or oppose any candidate or nominee for public office or any local, state, or federal official, regardless of whether the official is elected or appointed;

(2) Endorse, support, or oppose any local, state, or federal legislation or regulation, regardless of whether the legislation or regulation is pending, proposed, or enacted;

(3) Endorse, support, or oppose any local, state, or federal court case or judicial action, regardless of whether the court case or judicial action is pending, proposed, or decided;

(4) Endorse, support, or oppose any pending, proposed, or final executive action by any local, state, or federal executive branch agency;

(5) Introduce into any class any controversial subject matter that is not germane to the topic of the course being taught;

(6) Endorse, support, or engage in any activities that hamper or impede the lawful access of military recruiters to school property;

(7) Endorse, support, or engage in any activities that hamper or impede the actions of a

local, state, or federal law enforcement agency; or

(8) Advocate for any issue that is part of a political party platform at the national, state, or local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the code of ethics and professional responsibility contain provisions for the enforcement of and penalties for violations of the prohibitions therein, including termination of employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local school board is encouraged to provide written notification of the code of ethics and professional responsibility to each public elementary and secondary school teacher, each enrolled student, and parents of each enrolled student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local school board is encouraged to provide at least three hours of annual continuing teacher education instruction regarding teachers' responsibilities pursuant to the code of ethics and professional responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Education Association be encouraged to adopt a model code of ethics and professional responsibility for school districts to use.