

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1013

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting affordable health care including prescription drugs, a safe and secure retirement, and quality long-term care that is accessible and affordable for older South Dakotans.

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred twenty-five thousand Medicare beneficiaries in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, over seventy-five thousand South Dakotans have no health insurance at all and over a third of them fall between the ages of forty-five to sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, including prescription drugs and health insurance, are the fastest rising expenditures our state's older adults face in their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, American Association of Retired Persons' data in South Dakota shows that sixty percent of those surveyed indicated that paying for prescription drugs was a problem over the last year, forty percent of respondents paid one thousand two hundred dollars or more in the last year, and seventy-five percent indicated that they are concerned about meeting their prescription drug needs over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser Family Foundation data shows that the lack of drug coverage disproportionately affects beneficiaries living in rural area as fifty percent lack any coverage versus thirty-four percent in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, current Social Security programs offer a defined, inflation-protected benefit and continue to be the single most stable and secure source of retirement income for over one hundred fifty thousand South Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, the long-term solvency of the Social Security program is crucial to current and future generations of South Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, the accessibility, quality, and affordability of long-term care services, such as home and community based services, assisted living centers, nursing homes, and others, are critical to preserving an expected quality of life for all older South Dakotans:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature

of the State of South Dakota supports, recognizes, and understands these important issues that affect our state's older population and will work with our state's delegation in the United States Congress to ensure that affordable health care, a secure retirement, and affordable long-term care are protected and preserved for current and future generations of South Dakotans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Tom Daschle, Senator Tim Johnson, and Representative Bill Janklow.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,  
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 20, 2003  
February 28, 2003

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Matthew Michels  
Speaker of the House

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Karen Gerdes  
Chief Clerk of the House

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Dennis Daugaard  
President of the Senate

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Patricia Adam  
Secretary of the Senate