

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

446I0572

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1013

Introduced by: Representatives Nesselhuf, Begalka, Craddock, Cutler, Engels, Garnos, Gillespie, Hunhoff, LaRue, Madsen, McCoy, and Van Etten and Senators Kooistra, Brown, Ham, Kelly, and Olson (Ed)

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Kaiser Family Foundation data shows that the lack of drug coverage



1 disproportionately affects beneficiaries living in rural area as fifty percent lack any coverage  
2 versus thirty-four percent in urban areas; and

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

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

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

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
12 eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
13 Legislature of the State of South Dakota supports, recognizes, and understands these important  
14 issues that affect our state's older population and will work with our state's delegation in the  
15 United States Congress to ensure that these inalienable rights of affordable health care, a secure  
16 retirement, and affordable long-term care are protected and preserved for current and future  
17 generations of South Dakotans; and

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