

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting youth mentoring programs for South Dakota.

WHEREAS, January 2004, is National Mentoring Month which is a project spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership that began in January 2002; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month attempts to raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms, recruit individuals to mentor, and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of our nation's youth face difficult circumstances: one in four live in single-parent homes, one in ten is born to teen-aged parents, one in five lives in poverty, and one in ten will not finish high school; and

WHEREAS, mentoring has been shown to combat these problems by matching a caring, responsible adult with a child to provide guidance, stability, confidence, and direction for the child, which can result in improved school attendance and graduation rates and decreasing involvement with substance abuse and violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 17.6 million young people in the United States are in need of mentoring, while a National Mentoring Poll indicates that 57 million American adults would consider mentoring young people, which points to the need to find methods of matching available mentoring resources with those who would benefit from a mentoring program; and

WHEREAS, an expanded mentoring program in South Dakota would be a valuable resource for many of our state's young people and would benefit all of our communities; and

WHEREAS, mentoring in South Dakota would be enhanced through the formation of a State Mentoring Partnership for South Dakota and affiliation with the National Mentoring Partnership:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature supports and encourages the establishment and enhancement of mentoring programs for the young people of this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature supports the formation of a South Dakota State Mentoring Partnership and affiliation of South Dakota mentoring programs with the National Mentoring Partnership.

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

February 09, 2004  
February 11, 2004

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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