

State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

804L0324

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1012

Introduced by: Representatives Lange, Bradford, Dennert, Gassman, Gillespie, Glenski, Glover, Kroger, Miles, Roberts, Sigdestad, Street, Thompson, and Van Norman and Senator Kloucek

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to close the School of the Americas at
2 Fort Benning, Georgia.

3 WHEREAS, the United States Army School of the Americas (SOA), located at Ft. Benning,
4 Georgia, has trained nearly 50,000 military officers from throughout Central and South America
5 and the Caribbean; and

6 WHEREAS, more than sixty percent of the Salvadoran military officers cited in the 1993
7 United Nations Truth Commission report for massacres, assassinations, and other human rights
8 abuses, were graduates of the SOA; and

9 WHEREAS, more than forty percent of Colombian officers cited by an international human
10 rights tribunal were graduates of the SOA; and

11 WHEREAS, many of the top military officials involved in Mexico's counterinsurgency war
12 in Chiapas are SOA graduates; and

13 WHEREAS, many graduates of the SOA have been indicted for human rights abuses and
14 drug trafficking in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,
15 Panama, and Peru, including Gen. Manuel Noriega of Panama, Roberto D'Aubisson of El



1 Salvador, Gen. Hector Gramajo of Guatemala, and Gen. Hugo Banzar of Bolivia; and

2 WHEREAS, human rights observers, church leaders, peasant organizations, and student and
3 lawyers' groups have identified numerous SOA graduates as responsible for acts of torture,
4 assassination, kidnapping, drug trafficking, disappearances, rape, and death squad activity
5 throughout Latin America; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense revealed in 1996 that training
7 manuals used at the SOA included sections on torture, execution, blackmail, and paying
8 bounties for the assassinations of community leaders; and

9 WHEREAS, the history of the SOA runs contrary to our principles of respect for human
10 rights:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eightieth
12 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota
13 Legislature calls upon the United States Congress and the Executive Branch to eliminate
14 funding for and close the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia.