

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

453M0726

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Van Norman, Bradford, Buckingham, Cutler, Dennert, Elliott, Garnos, Gassman, Glenski, Glover, Haley, Halverson, Hunhoff, Jensen, Kroger, Lange, Miles, Rausch, Roberts, Rounds, Schafer, Sigdestad, Street, Thompson, Tidemann, Valandra, and Vehle and Senators Two Bulls, Adelstein, Bartling, Dempster, Hundstad, Kloucek, Nesselhuf, and Peterson (Jim)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to restore funding for the Urban Indian
2 Health Program.

3 WHEREAS, President Bush's proposed FY 2007 budget proposes to eliminate funding for
4 all Urban Indian Health programs; and

5 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Program was created as a result of the 1976 federal
6 Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which explicitly recognized the special responsibility of
7 the American people to provide the highest possible health status to Indians and urban Indians;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Program operates three full-time primary health care
10 clinics in South Dakota in the cities of Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Pierre/Fort Pierre. These
11 facilities are Federally Qualified Health Centers and State Medicaid Managed Care providers.
12 South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Inc., was incorporated in South Dakota in 1977 as a
13 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity; and



1 WHEREAS, South Dakota's Urban Indian Health clinics employ twenty-seven persons
2 either directly or by contract and provided direct care service to more than 2,500 unduplicated
3 enrolled members of federally recognized tribes in the last year; and

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota's Urban Indian Health clinics provide primary medical care,
5 diabetes care, community health services, substance abuse and mental health counseling,
6 laboratory services, and pharmacy, dental, and optical services to South Dakota's urban Native
7 American community; and

8 WHEREAS, Urban Indian Health clinics provide a number of unique and important
9 services. They are able to overcome cultural barriers experienced by many Native Americans
10 who are reluctant to see health care providers who are unfamiliar with Native cultures, and they
11 also play a role in educating other providers in the community to the unique needs and
12 conditions of the urban Native American population. Urban Indian Health clinics enable patients
13 to seek treatment before their health deteriorates further, they serve patients who might
14 otherwise not seek any other medical care, and they are better able to address the health impacts
15 of the movement of patients back and forth from reservations; and

16 WHEREAS, Urban Indian Health clinics reduce costs to other, costlier parts of the Indian
17 Health Service system by reducing their patient load; and

18 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cut represents a loss of \$33 million for the nation's 34
19 Urban Indian Health Programs, which would force many of these programs to close. South
20 Dakota's Urban Indian Health Program would lose more than \$1 million in overall funding; and

21 WHEREAS, the elimination of the nation's Urban Indian Health Program would represent
22 an irreparable loss of health services to the Native American community and would widen the
23 already wide gap in health services available to Native American people:

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-

1 first Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
2 Dakota Legislature urgently requests the United States Congress to fully restore the proposed
3 Fiscal Year 2007 funding cuts to the Urban Indian Health Program so that the already limited
4 health care options for Native American citizens are not further eroded; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress is urged to increase the Fiscal Year 2007
6 budget for Urban Indian Health Programs nationwide by \$12 million.