

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2006 National Mentoring Month initiative is led in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and in South Dakota with the Alliance for Boys and Girls Clubs; and

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

WHEREAS, President Bush issued a proclamation designating January 2006 as National Mentoring Month, stating, "Mentors help children resist peer pressure, achieve results in school, stay off drugs, and make the right choices. Many people become mentors because of the impact of a mentor in their own lives, creating a chain of compassion over the course of generations."; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of our nation's youth face difficult circumstances: one in four lives in a single-parent home, 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 seventeen million six hundred thousand young people in the United States are in need of mentoring, while a National Mentoring Poll indicates that fifty-seven million American adults would consider mentoring young people, which identifies 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. The former President

Clinton urged Boomers to "Share what you know. Become a mentor."; 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:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representative 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 State Mentoring Partnership and an affiliation with the National Mentoring Partnership.

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

January 30, 2006
February 01, 2006

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House