

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

436M0543

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by: Senators Bogue, Dempster, and Two Bulls and Representatives Bradford, Valandra, and Van Norman

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the South Dakota Congressional Delegation
2 and the United States Congress to address significant deficiencies in the dental health care
3 provided to American Indians.

4 WHEREAS, more than sixty-two thousand South Dakotans are American Indians; and

5 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service is the primary provider of dental health care to
6 American Indians who live in South Dakota; and

7 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service is required to provide dental services to the entire
8 American Indian population, but does so for only about twenty-four percent of that population;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Indian Health Service clinics labor under a forty percent vacancy rate for
11 dentists in South Dakota, which causes a significant impediment to providing needed dental
12 care; and

13 WHEREAS, preventing and treating dental disease results in health care savings, improved
14 health status for diabetics, fewer missed class hours for school children, and fewer missed work
15 hours for adults; and



1 WHEREAS, a shortage of adequate loan repayment funding has contributed to the inability
2 of the Indian Health Service to attract and retain dentists at their clinics in South Dakota; and

3 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service needs an additional six million dollars for loan
4 repayment to fill all dental vacancies:

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-first Legislature of
6 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
7 Dakota Legislature supports a request of six million dollars for loan repayment to fill dental
8 vacancies in the Indian Health Service nation-wide, and encourages Senators Tim Johnson and
9 John Thune, and Representative Stephanie Herseth to support this request for the Indian Health
10 Service in the FY 2007 Budget and Interior Appropriations bills.