

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1007

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the Legislature of the State of South Dakota to continue in its practice and to further examine using people first language, which will acknowledge individuals as people before they acknowledge any disability.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of South Dakota is looked upon to be a role model for the citizens of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, language used in reference to persons with disabilities shapes and reflects society's attitudes towards people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many of the terms currently used by society diminish the humanity and natural condition of having a disability; and

WHEREAS, terminology that references persons with disabilities should not imply that such persons are disabled as a whole, equate persons with their condition, or have negative overtones of a derogatory or demeaning effect; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it important and appropriate to clarify that for new and revised laws and rules use should be made of terminology that puts the person before the disability:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature will support language to put people first when referring to persons with disabilities in its statutes and rules.

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

February 14, 2007  
February 20, 2007

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Thomas J. Deadrick  
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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Trudy Evenstad  
Secretary of the Senate