

State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

957L0657

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Introduced by: Senators Smidt, Gant, and Hanson (Gary) and Representatives Hunhoff, Glenski, and Tidemann

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, large numbers of our nation's youth face difficult circumstances: one in four
9 live in single-parent homes, one in ten is born to teen-aged parents, one in five lives in poverty,
10 and one in ten will not finish high school; and

11 WHEREAS, mentoring has been shown to combat these problems by matching a caring,
12 responsible adult with a child to provide guidance, stability, confidence, and direction for the
13 child, which can result in improved school attendance and graduation rates and decreasing
14 involvement with substance abuse and violent behavior; and

15 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 17.6 million young people in the United States are in need



1 of mentoring, while a National Mentoring Poll indicates that 57 million American adults would
2 consider mentoring young people, which identifies the need to find methods of matching
3 available mentoring resources with those who would benefit from a mentoring program; and

4 WHEREAS, an expanded mentoring program in South Dakota would be a valuable resource
5 for many of our state's young people and would benefit all of our communities; and

6 WHEREAS, mentoring in South Dakota would be enhanced through the formation of a
7 State Mentoring Partnership for South Dakota and affiliation with the National Mentoring
8 Partnership:

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eightieth Legislature of the
10 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota
11 Legislature supports and encourages the establishment and enhancement of mentoring programs
12 for the young people of this state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature supports the formation
14 of a South Dakota State Mentoring Partnership and affiliation of South Dakota mentoring
15 programs with the National Mentoring Partnership.