

# State of South Dakota

## EIGHTIETH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

709L0438

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Hanks, Brunner, Buckingham, Davis, Faehn, Hackl, Howie, Jensen, Kraus, Krebs, McCoy, McLaughlin, Nelson, Rave, Rhoden, Sebert, and Van Etten and Senators Duniphan, McCracken, and McNenny

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing legislative support for the preservation of the  
2 words, under God, in the pledge of allegiance.

3 WHEREAS, the first amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees  
4 religious freedom to all Americans, is the literal keystone of our nation's political edifice; and

5 WHEREAS, the just and proper convictions of the Founding Fathers were not limited to a  
6 perpetual prohibition against the establishment of any one religion, but were predicated upon  
7 a fervent desire to foster an abiding spirit of tolerance not only for all religions, but for all  
8 religious philosophies; and

9 WHEREAS, much of the contentious recent first amendment litigation has been premised  
10 on the mistaken theory that the first amendment was designed to establish an areligious or even  
11 an antireligious context for religious worship in America instead of an America deeply  
12 committed to the respectful toleration of all religious consciences; and

13 WHEREAS, petty bickering and partisan wrangling over long established and nonspecific  
14 references to God serves no practical or legal purpose but does considerable damage to the spirit  
15 of toleration, which, more than laws or courts or constitutions, is the supreme safeguard of our



1 religious liberties:

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eightieth  
3 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
4 deplores all litigation motivated by any misguided determination to substitute restrictive  
5 minority viewpoints for traditional American religious tolerance; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports the retention of all traditional,  
7 nondenominational references to God or the concept of divinity as incorporated in the national  
8 pledge of allegiance, the national motto, many state mottos, and various oaths of office and  
9 similar legal formulations.