



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

Introduced by: **Senator Rusch**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the value of public higher education in**
 2 **South Dakota and encouraging continued efforts to ensure that higher**
 3 **education remains affordable for all South Dakotans.**

4 WHEREAS, the first Dakota Territorial Legislature in 1862 recognized the importance of
 5 higher education for the pioneer families that were settling in the new territory and by means
 6 of Chapter 88 of the 1862 Session Laws began the process of establishing a statewide system
 7 of higher education institutions to allow their sons and daughters to obtain education and
 8 make better lives for themselves; and

9 WHEREAS, it continues to be true that a higher education is one of the best routes for
 10 South Dakotans and their families to advance; and that a well-trained and educated workforce
 11 is critical to the future of South Dakota's economy; and

12 WHEREAS, a growing share of South Dakota's workforce is requiring some form of post-
 13 secondary credential; and

14 WHEREAS, South Dakota public universities generate approximately \$2.66 billion of
 15 annual economic impact to South Dakota from a state investment of just over \$220 million;
 16 and

17 WHEREAS, annual sales and property tax revenues attributed to the economic activity
 18 generated by the public university system exceed \$160 million; and

19 WHEREAS, affordability remains a significant barrier to post-secondary educational
 20 attainment; and

21 WHEREAS, the cost of higher education in South Dakota is increasingly shifting. In 2007,
 22 general fund support covered 55% of the cost of a student's education, with the student
 23 covering 45%, but by 2020, general fund support accounts for only 47% of the cost, and the
 24 student is required to cover 53%; and

1 WHEREAS, when considering the total cost of attendance and the average grant aid
2 available to students, South Dakota is falling behind other states in affordability of public
3 higher education:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the
5 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
6 Dakota Legislature supports and values public higher education and supports efforts to
7 provide a sustainable framework for affordable public higher education in South Dakota for
8 generations to come.