



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

SENATE EDUCATION ENGROSSED

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 percent of the cost of a student's education, with the student
23 covering 45 percent, but by 2020, general fund support accounts for only 47 percent of the
24 cost, and the student is required to cover 53 percent:

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