



## 2023 South Dakota Legislature

# House Commemoration 8009

Introduced by: **Representatives** Nelson, Bartels, Duba, Kull, Lesmeister, Olson, and Wittman

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Jackie Kocak for receiving the Direct**  
 2 **Care Worker of the Year Award by the National Association of Special**  
 3 **Education Centers.**

4 WHEREAS, those who select careers involving the education of children deserve our  
 5 deepest admiration and appreciation; and

6 WHEREAS, those who select careers in which they are able to help children with disabilities  
 7 live their best and fullest lives deserve our sincerest recognition and respect; and

8 WHEREAS, Jackie Kocak, in her role as a Lead Teaching Assistant at the LifeScape  
 9 Specialty School, is one person who has made unparalleled impacts on the lives of her  
 10 students and, through her exemplary actions and demeanor, has likewise challenged her  
 11 colleagues to be the very best that they can be; and

12 WHEREAS, Jackie Kocak recently travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana, to accept the  
 13 coveted Direct Care Worker of the Year award, presented by the National Association of  
 14 Private Special Education Centers; and

15 WHEREAS, this award reflects the high esteem in which Jackie Kocak is held, by her peers,  
 16 by her students, by her colleagues, and by her friends; and

17 WHEREAS, after a lifetime devoted to improving the lives of others, and after twenty years  
 18 of serving students at the LifeScape Specialty School, Jackie Kocak has announced her  
 19 impending retirement:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State  
 21 of South Dakota, that Jackie Kocak, through her invaluable contribution to the success of so  
 22 many children with disabilities, has brought pride to her profession, and earned the gratitude  
 23 of this Legislature and all South Dakotans.