



2024 South Dakota Legislature  
**House Concurrent Resolution  
6007**

HOUSE MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Representative Teunissen**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the United States Department of**  
2 **Veteran Affairs to allow veterans to receive long-term care services at**  
3 **facilities that do not otherwise meet the requirements set by the department.**

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota has a population of approximately sixty-three thousand three  
5 hundred and twenty-two resident veterans, of whom twenty thousand and seventy-one  
6 veterans are older than the age of seventy; and

7 WHEREAS, the current and only state veterans nursing home, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice  
8 South Dakota State Veterans Home, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the state,  
9 in Hot Springs, South Dakota; and

10 WHEREAS, long-stay services are available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home  
11 care for life or for an extended period of time if the veterans have a service-connected  
12 disability rated sixty percent and who are unable to be employed, or if the veterans have a  
13 seventy percent or greater service-connected disability; and

14 WHEREAS, the community nursing home program has contracts established with VA  
15 medical centers to help meet the needs of veterans who require long-term nursing home care  
16 in their own community, close to family, and meet the enrollment and eligibility requirements;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a nursing home must meet the requirements established by the VA for  
19 veterans to receive long-term care services at the facility; and

20 WHEREAS, a veteran is eligible to be admitted to a community nursing home if the veteran  
21 receives an increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance, because the  
22 veteran must be permanently housed in a nursing home, or because the veteran is determined

1 to be catastrophically disabled by the chief of staff, or equivalent clinical officer, of the VA  
2 facility where the veteran was examined; and

3 WHEREAS, any honorably discharged veteran who is at least seventy-nine years and one  
4 day old receives full access to VA medical care based solely on the veterans honorable  
5 discharge and age; and

6 WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, the United States Department of  
7 Veterans Affairs and rural states will face an increasing demand for long-term care services:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth  
9 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
10 encourages the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to amend the requirements for  
11 a long-term care service provider to admit veterans to better allow veterans to receive  
12 required and necessary care.