



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 604

Introduced by: **Senator** Zikmund

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the expansion of transportation services**  
2 **for veterans receiving medical care in this state.**

3 WHEREAS, veterans who live in rural areas face significant challenges when seeking  
4 medical care, exacerbated by ineffective public transportation and a shortage of volunteer  
5 Veterans Transportation Service drivers and vehicles compliant with the Americans with  
6 Disabilities Act; and

7 WHEREAS, preventive medical care promotes early intervention, which can improve  
8 veterans' health outcomes and ensure timely access to the United States Department of  
9 Veterans Affairs health care system; and

10 WHEREAS, veterans seeking medical care are often high-risk patients, and require safe  
11 and reliable transportation to make it to their appointments on time, yet many volunteer  
12 drivers are over the age of sixty-five and are not equipped to handle medical emergencies;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the Highly Rural Transportation Grant program assists veterans in eligible  
15 counties to travel to United States Department of Veterans Affairs health facilities to receive  
16 medical care through partnerships with veteran service organizations and state veterans  
17 service agencies; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs reimburses eligible veterans  
19 for travel to and from approved health facilities if the veteran meets certain requirements,  
20 including having a disability rating of thirty percent or higher, or if the veteran is traveling for  
21 treatment of a service-connected condition; and

22 WHEREAS, veterans with a disability rating less than thirty percent deserve the right to  
23 transportation for medical care, whether or not the care is for a service-connected condition;

1        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundredth Legislature of  
2 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the  
3 Legislature urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the availability  
4 of transportation services for veterans seeking medical care, in coordination with affiliates  
5 and local community partners, including adding more modes of transportation compliant with  
6 the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

7        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges the United States Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs to expand eligibility requirements for travel reimbursement to include  
9 veterans without a service-connected disability and for travel to any treatment at an approved  
10 facility; and

11        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature celebrates the Highly Rural Transportation  
12 Grant program and supports its expansion to meet the needs of veterans in this state.