



2025 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Concurrent Resolution 604
ENROLLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

February 4, 2025
February 18, 2025

Chris Karr
President Pro Tempore
of the Senate

Peggy Laurenz
Secretary of the Senate

Jon Hansen
Speaker of the House

Patricia Miller
Chief Clerk