



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 604

Introduced by: **Senator Voita**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the people of the state of South Dakota to  
2 **return to the Lord Most High, the Almighty and Uncreate, and plead for His**  
3 **mercy upon the state.**

4 WHEREAS, we know that from the earliest days of the United States, the men and women  
5 who worked to build up our nation trusted in the all-powerful and most merciful hand of  
6 Providence to bless our land and guide their work with His wisdom; and

7 WHEREAS, we know that these men and women founded the United States upon the  
8 Judeo-Christian values articulated by Sacred Scripture, among which are the beliefs that  
9 government is established by God to safeguard the rights of the members of the community  
10 over which it watches, that we are to love our neighbors as we ourselves have each been  
11 loved by God, and that each human person has been created in the image and likeness of  
12 God; and

13 WHEREAS, we hold, as John Adams wrote to the Massachusetts Militia on October 11,  
14 1798, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly  
15 inadequate to the government of any other"; and

16 WHEREAS, Article VIII, § 1 of the South Dakota Constitution affirms that the health of a  
17 state depends on the virtue of its people; and

18 WHEREAS, the official motto of the State of South Dakota is "Under God, the People Rule";  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, we hold that only a continual submission to the sovereignty of the Almighty  
21 and wholly Righteous God, joined with an unyielding commitment to uphold the principles of  
22 the Constitutions of the United States and the State of South Dakota, will allow us to protect  
23 the liberties that have been given to us by the Almighty, from all forces that are intent on

1 advancing an agenda that seeks to turn us away from rightly loving God and our neighbors;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, we give thanks to the omnipotent Lord of all creation for the peace and  
4 prosperity that He has bestowed upon us, for we confess that peace and prosperity are gifts  
5 from Him and that true peace and prosperity is found only in Him; and

6 WHEREAS, we acknowledge that, because of our fallen nature, these blessings of peace  
7 and prosperity are not experienced by everyone, and many people in this state continue to  
8 face significant challenges; and

9 WHEREAS, decisions that have been made by the federal government concerning our  
10 nation's borders, foreign relations, economic regulations, and national debt threaten our  
11 institutions and our way of life; and

12 WHEREAS, exposing, resisting, and eliminating corruption from all levels of government  
13 is essential to maintaining the God-given liberty of all citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, acts of criminal violence in our communities are an affront to the inherent  
15 dignity of every individual; and

16 WHEREAS, human trafficking is an abhorrent evil perpetrated upon thousands of people  
17 in our nation and state, depriving them of their God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit  
18 of happiness; and

19 WHEREAS, addiction and mental illness overwhelm our state's financial resources and  
20 healthcare and criminal justice systems and adversely affect our communities and families;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, divorce rates and the unending and extensive demand for foster care reveal a  
23 fundamental brokenness in our society; and

24 WHEREAS, the foundation of a strong community begins with a commitment to strong,  
25 loving, families, in which is shown the profound and unconditional love of mother and father  
26 towards each other, their children, and their communities; and

27 WHEREAS, cultural forces are inviting us to turn a blind eye towards growing tendencies  
28 to embrace suicide, infanticide, and self-mutilation, each of which conflict with the truth that  
29 all men have been created in the image and likeness of God, and that, having been fearfully

1 and wonderfully made by the Lord of Life, all men possess an inherent and inviolable dignity;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, throughout the history of our nation, our leaders have repeatedly called upon  
4 the people to return to Almighty God in a spirit of humility and penance, and beg the Father's  
5 favor and mercy; and

6 WHEREAS, in a proclamation calling for a time of national fasting, John Adams wrote, "As  
7 the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and  
8 the blessing of Almighty God; and the national acknowledgement of this truth is not only an  
9 indispensable duty which the People owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is  
10 favorable to the promotion of that Morality and Piety, without which social Happiness cannot  
11 exist nor the Blessings of a Free Government be enjoyed; and as this Duty, at all times  
12 incumbent, is so especially in seasons of Difficulty or of Danger, when existing or threatening  
13 Calamities, the just Judgements of God against prevalent Iniquity, are a loud call to  
14 Repentance and Reformation...Under these considerations it has appeared to me that the Duty  
15 of imploring the Mercy and Benediction of Heaven on our Country demands, at this time, a  
16 special attention from its inhabitants"; and

17 WHEREAS, without abdicating any responsibility for the actions that we take and  
18 acknowledging that the government of our state and nation have the responsibility to govern  
19 justly, we understand that none of our actions have the ability to come to a good end if the  
20 Lord does not favor and bless our undertaking; and

21 WHEREAS, we hold that "Vain is the builder's toil, if the house is not of the Lord's building;  
22 vainly the guard keeps watch, if the city has not the Lord for its guardian" (Ps. 127:1); and

23 WHEREAS, we join the psalmist's prayer to our own and say "Let the glorious majesty of  
24 the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, prosper thou  
25 the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17);

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundred First Legislature  
27 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that each  
28 year, the month of July be recognized as a time of prayer and fasting in South Dakota; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through our acts of prayer and fasting, we seek the  
30 continued blessings of the Lord Most High upon South Dakota, and affirm that He, as our

1 Creator and God, the King of All Glory, holds all authority, both in Heaven and on earth, to  
2 judge and bless nations, states, and peoples as He sees fit; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with a humble spirit and a contrite heart, we recognize  
4 our sins and our weaknesses, both individually and as a people, and beg Him for His  
5 forgiveness and His strength; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the Lord Jesus to remove from us all corruption,  
7 violence, and addiction, to heal all hearts and minds, to restore marriages and fortify families,  
8 and to bring a righteous vision and a unity of purpose to all South Dakotans; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and the Paraclete,  
10 to move within the halls of government, classrooms, businesses, places of worship, and  
11 homes of this state to bring to the people of the State of South Dakota a spirit of healing,  
12 love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and temperance;  
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all those who are physically able and  
15 spiritually inclined to join us annually during the month of July, for a time of prayer and  
16 fasting, depriving ourselves of those temporary physical comforts so that we may be  
17 awakened to our need and hunger for God, humbling ourselves before Him, prayerfully  
18 seeking His face, asking for His forgiveness, forsaking all wickedness, and begging Him to  
19 bestow His healing, blessing, grace, and mercy upon us, so that we, our communities, our  
20 state, and our nation will be transformed into a people fit to be His own.