



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8024

Introduced by: **Representative** Pourier

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION honoring the life and legacy of Elizabeth Cook-**
2 **Lynn.**

3 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, a citizen of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and widely
4 regarded as the godmother of Native American studies, pioneered the field through her
5 writing, scholarship, and advocacy; and

6 WHEREAS, holding faculty positions at Eastern Washington University and Arizona State
7 University, where she helped found the Native American studies program, Elizabeth Cook-
8 Lynn contributed to Indigenous-centered curricula and created academic spaces where Native
9 stories, languages, and philosophies were dignified and acknowledged as important areas of
10 study; and

11 WHEREAS, Cook-Lynn's published works, foundational in Native American studies and
12 Indigenous literature, have contributed to a wider understanding of Native nations as
13 sovereign political and cultural entities with inherent rights; and

14 WHEREAS, throughout her life, she used her voice to speak to and for the land, and
15 encouraged young people and readers and listeners to do the same, reminding people of the
16 connection Native nations have with their territories and the resulting moral obligations;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the
18 State of South Dakota, that the state and its people are grateful for the life, contributions,
19 achievements, and enduring legacy of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn.