

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

706B0370

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by: Senators Nelson, Curd, DiSanto, Jensen (Phil), Monroe, and Russell and
Representatives Randolph, Brunner, Dennert, Frye-Mueller, Goodwin,
Howard, Jensen (Kevin), Marty, and Pischke

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Commending and thanking the men and women of the
2 United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), urging Congress and the
3 President to fund construction of the southern border wall, and urging Congress and the
4 President to ensure compliance with and enforcement of federal immigration laws.

5 WHEREAS, the national security interests of the United States are dependent on the brave
6 men and women who enforce our Nation's immigration laws; and

7 WHEREAS, any call to abolish ICE is an insult to the heroic law enforcement officers who
8 make sacrifices every day to secure our borders, enforce our laws, and protect our safety and
9 security; and

10 WHEREAS, the abolishment of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
11 (ICE) would mean open and uncontrolled borders through elimination of the main agency
12 responsible for expelling people who enter or remain in our country unlawfully; and

13 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would permit dangerous criminal aliens, including
14 violent and ruthless members of the MS-13 gang, to enter and remain in American communities;



1 and

2 WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2017, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
3 arrested more than 127,000 aliens with a history of criminal convictions or current charges; and

4 WHEREAS, ICE ERO made 5,225 administrative arrests of suspected gang members in
5 fiscal year 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, criminal aliens arrested by ICE ERO in fiscal year 2017 were responsible for
7 more than:

8 (A) 76,000 dangerous drug offenses;

9 (B) 48,000 assault offenses;

10 (C) 11,000 weapon offenses;

11 (D) 5,000 sexual assault offenses;

12 (E) 2,000 kidnapping offenses; and

13 (F) 1,800 homicide offenses; and

14 WHEREAS, ICE Homeland Security Investigations made 4,818 gang-related arrests in fiscal
15 year 2017; and

16 WHEREAS, ICE identified or rescued 904 sexually exploited children and identified or
17 rescued 518 victims of human trafficking; and

18 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would allow countless illegal aliens who pose a threat
19 to public safety to roam freely on American soil with no fear of deportation; and

20 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would mean more dangerous illegal drugs would flow
21 into our communities, causing more Americans to suffer needlessly; and

22 WHEREAS, ICE plays a critical role in combating the drug crisis facing our Nation; and

23 WHEREAS, ICE seized more than 980,000 pounds of narcotics in fiscal year 2017,
24 including thousands of pounds of the deadly drugs fueling the opioid crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, ICE seized 2,370 pounds of fentanyl and 6,967 pounds of heroin in fiscal year
2 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, ICE logged nearly 90,000 investigative hours to interrupt the flow of fentanyl
4 in fiscal year 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would cause our communities even more devastation
6 from the free flow of these drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would eliminate the agency that deports aliens who
8 pose a terrorist threat to the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, ICE was created in 2003 to protect national security and public safety after the
10 revelation of how the 9/11 terrorists exploited immigration laws to gain entry into the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, ICE is one of the first lines of defense against terrorists gaining access to inflict
13 harm to citizens of the towns and cities in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the abolishment of ICE would weaken United States defenses against terrorism
15 and enable the hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals who illegally overstay a visa each
16 year to remain in the United States indefinitely and with impunity; and

17 WHEREAS, national security and law enforcement agencies have repeatedly identified the
18 entire United States border with Mexico as a major national security concern; and

19 WHEREAS, walls have been historically effective protection for the sovereignty of nations
20 and security of citizens from terrorists and criminals, from the ancient Great Wall of China to
21 the walls erected by the modern nations of Hungary and Israel; and

22 WHEREAS, a 2018 National Border Patrol Council survey, of more than 600 agents in two
23 of the Border Patrol's busiest sectors, resulted in 89 percent of line agents affirming a "wall
24 system in strategic locations is necessary to securing the border"; and

1 WHEREAS, according to estimates, eleven to twenty-two million illegal aliens are present
2 in the United States in violation of Federal immigration laws; and

3 WHEREAS, in August 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' employment situation report
4 listed between 6.2 and 7.4 Million Americans who are unemployed, and 4.4 million Americans
5 who are either employed part-time for economic reasons or who are involuntarily part-time
6 workers; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1995 the United States Government Accountability Office estimated the 3.4
8 million illegal aliens in the United States at that time, were a net cost of up to \$19 billion.
9 Current estimates are the 11-22 million illegal aliens in the United States are a net cost of
10 \$175-\$275 billion a year; and

11 WHEREAS, illegal labor takes jobs away from American workers, lowers American wages,
12 transfers the costs of subsidizing illegal labor to South Dakotans, and has a negative effect on
13 America's poorest; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States of America takes in more legal immigrants than any nation
15 in the world. Those legal immigrants have overwhelmingly proven to be assets to the
16 communities they settle in, and South Dakotans welcome all races, religions, and creeds to our
17 beloved state who immigrate legally to South Dakota to mix with and to add to our great
18 American melting pot; and

19 WHEREAS, existing federal immigration laws ardently and equally enforced honor the rich
20 tradition of immigration and the rule of law upon which the American Republic was founded;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of the federal government to protect national
23 borders and secure the sovereignty of the United States of America as well as to enforce
24 immigration and employment laws for the protection of American citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, the enforcement of existing federal immigration laws, especially those
2 regarding national security, immigration, and employment are necessary for the preservation of
3 the sovereignty of this nation and the well-being of the American people:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature
5 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
6 Dakota Legislature commends and thanks the brave men and women of the United States
7 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and encourages them to continue their diligent
8 and steadfast service to the citizens of our nation; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges Congress and the
10 President of the United States to immediately provide for the security of our nation by
11 controlling and securing our national borders with appropriate legislation to fund the
12 construction of the southern border wall and then immediately commence construction of the
13 southern border wall; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges Congress and the
15 President of the United States to immediately provide for the security of our nation through the
16 ardent and equal enforcement of our existing federal immigration laws.