



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6001

*Introduced by: **Representative Reed***

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To direct the Department of Social Services to**
2 **investigate implementing peer support services.**

3 WHEREAS, peer support services are an evidence-based mental health model of care that
4 consists of a qualified peer support provider who assists individuals with their recovery from
5 either mental illness, substance use disorders, or both; and

6 WHEREAS, because of lived experience as a person with a mental health issue, substance
7 use disorder, or both, qualified peer support providers have a unique ability to engage,
8 support, model, and motivate another individual toward health, wellness, resiliency, and
9 recovery; and

10 WHEREAS, experiences of peer support providers, as consumers of mental health and
11 substance use services, can be an important component in South Dakota's delivery of effective
12 mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, South Dakota has a shortage of mental health care providers and programs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, peer support services have demonstrated outcomes of decreased utilization of
16 state mental hospitals, emergency departments, and the justice system; and

17 WHEREAS, the Increase Community Services and Caregiver Supports Task Force
18 recommends that the state of South Dakota investigate the development of effective peer
19 support services;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
21 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota
22 Department of Social Services investigate the development of peer support services to

1 improve access to mental health care, and report to the 2021 Legislature on how to best
2 provide peer support services across the state and the associated financial costs:

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services report to the 2021
4 Legislature on the appropriate role of the state in providing peer support services and the
5 associated state financial costs.