



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6012

*Introduced by: **Representative** Randolph*

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the right to pray in public schools.**

2 WHEREAS, the founding of this country is rooted in the belief that all men and women are
 3 endowed with the right to follow their conscience, to worship freely, and to live in accordance
 4 with their convictions; and

5 WHEREAS, religious freedom is this country's first freedom and has, throughout history,
 6 been a driving force behind many of the most defining moments of our identity as a country;
 7 and

8 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly articulates the
 9 intention of our founders to prevent governmental interference in the practice of religion; and

10 WHEREAS, in May 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to advance
 11 religious liberty for individuals and institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, our ability to worship freely and openly and to live within our faith should never
 13 be infringed; and

14 WHEREAS, repressive governments around the world persecute Christians and other
 15 religious worshipers, and terrorist organizations carry out barbaric violence against innocent
 16 victims because of their religion; and

17 WHEREAS, this country seeks to dispel religious persecution and discrimination around
 18 the world and to ensure respect for the freedom of religion and religious beliefs; and

19 WHEREAS, our founding fathers entrusted the people with the solemn responsibility of
 20 protecting religious liberty so that we, as a people and as a nation, may always stand as a
 21 guiding beacon for the world;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
2 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature
3 supports the United States Department of Education's guidance entitled "Constitutionally
4 Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools,"
5 dated January 16, 2020; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Senate provide copies of this
7 resolution to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the
8 president pro tempore and the secretary of the United States Senate, and to the members of
9 the South Dakota congressional delegation.