



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 827

Introduced by: **Senator Nesiba**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating the LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit**
2 **Community of South Dakota.**

3 WHEREAS, approximately 20,000 adults, or three percent of the population, identify as
4 LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit in South Dakota as of 2015, with uncounted numbers of youth
5 identifying as LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit. With nearly a dozen Pride Festivals held annually across
6 the state of South Dakota, ranging from public parades and fairs to one-day educational
7 events, it is clear that LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit advocates have been hard at work over the
8 last few decades; and

9 WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit community shows their resilience and strength
10 every day by living their truth to combat discrimination and misrepresentation. In South
11 Dakota, LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit persons remain an unprotected class and therefore may face
12 legal discrimination. We celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of the LGBTQ+ and
13 Two Spirit community while acknowledging how far they have come to shift the narrative of
14 their existence in this state; and

15 WHEREAS, we commend organizations like the Black Hills Center for Equality, Pierre Area
16 Center for Equality, Sioux Falls Pride, the ACLU of South Dakota, and Equality South Dakota
17 for their efforts to educate and empower their fellow South Dakotans. The growth of these
18 organizations should be a beacon of hope for the LGBTQ+ community and their allies across
19 South Dakota; and

20 WHEREAS, we sincerely thank the communities of Brookings, Deadwood, Pierre, Rapid
21 City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Vermillion, and Watertown for leading South Dakota in inclusive
22 excellence. We are ever grateful for the organizations and individuals in communities across
23 this state for volunteering countless hours to bring visibility, education, and acceptance to the
24 LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit communities in our state; and

1 WHEREAS, pride festivals and educational events across South Dakota have brought
2 tourists from all over the region into our state, boosted local economies, and provided
3 community events for countless South Dakotans:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State
5 of South Dakota, that the Legislature celebrates and recognizes the LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit
6 community and their combined efforts towards equality for every South Dakotan.