



# 2020 South Dakota Legislature

## House Concurrent Resolution 6012

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Representative** Randolph

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

2 WHEREAS, our founders approved the First Amendment of the United States Constitution  
3 that made religious freedom the initial right stated in our foundational document; and

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

6 WHEREAS, the ability of people to worship freely and openly and to live faithfully by the  
7 tenets of their faith is protected by the First Amendment; and

8 WHEREAS, a major part of many world religions is the practice of prayer both private and  
9 public; and

10 WHEREAS, in the case of Engel v. Vitale, 1962, the Supreme Court of the United States  
11 ruled that state-sponsored prayers in public schools violated the First Amendment of the  
12 United States Constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, prayer by individual students can be accomplished in public schools in a  
14 voluntary, nondisruptive manner, consistent with court rulings on the subject of prayer in  
15 public schools; and

16 WHEREAS, in recent months, the administration of President Donald J. Trump has issued  
17 new guidelines through the United States Department of Education regarding this issue:

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the House of Representatives provide copies  
2 of this resolution to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to  
3 the president pro tempore and the secretary of the United States Senate, and to the members  
4 of the South Dakota congressional delegation.