

2020 South Dakota Legislature
**House Concurrent Resolution
6012**

AMENDMENT HCR6012C FOR THE HOUSE BILL

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 our founders approved the First Amendment of the United States
5 Constitution that made religious freedom the initial right stated in our foundational document;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, religious freedom is this country's first freedom and has, throughout history,
8 been a driving force behind many of the most defining moments of our identity as a country
9 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution articulates the intention of our founders
10 to prevent governmental interference in the practice of religion; and

11 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly articulates the
12 intention of our founders to prevent governmental interference in the practice of religion the
13 ability of people to worship freely and openly and to live faithfully by the tenets of their faith
14 is protected by the First Amendment; and

15 WHEREAS, in May 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to advance
16 religious liberty for individuals and institutions repressive governments around the world
17 persecute Christians and other religious worshipers, and terrorist organizations carry out
18 barbaric violence against innocent people because of their religion; and

19 WHEREAS, our ability to worship freely and openly and to live within our faith should never
20 be infringed the United States desires the end of religious persecution around the world and
21 desires to ensure respect for the freedom of religion; and

1 ~~WHEREAS, repressive governments around the world persecute Christians and other~~
2 ~~religious worshipers, and terrorist organizations carry out barbaric violence against innocent~~
3 ~~victims because of their religion; and~~

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

6 ~~WHEREAS, our founding fathers entrusted the people with the solemn responsibility of~~
7 ~~protecting religious liberty so that we, as a people and as a nation, may always stand as a~~
8 ~~guiding beacon for the world in May 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive~~
9 ~~Order to advance religious liberty for individuals and institutions;~~

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the House of Representatives provide copies
16 of this resolution to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to
17 the president pro tempore and the secretary of the United States Senate, and to the members
18 of the South Dakota congressional delegation.