



2021 South Dakota Legislature
**House Concurrent Resolution
 6014**

HOUSE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Representative Pourier**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To acknowledge and honor the Native American**
 2 **children who were survivors of the boarding schools in this state.**

3 WHEREAS, beginning in the latter part of the nineteenth century, Native American children
 4 were often involuntarily sent to boarding schools far away from their families and
 5 communities; and

6 WHEREAS, these vulnerable children observed and suffered physical, emotional,
 7 psychological, and sexual abuse; were forced to deny or abandon their cultural heritage and
 8 relinquish their spirituality; and were often punished by being physically restrained, beaten,
 9 and isolated in inhospitable surroundings; and

10 WHEREAS, these children, their children, and now their grandchildren and great
 11 grandchildren, bear the devastating legacy of the boarding school era and of the assimilation
 12 policies that established and sustained the boarding schools; and

13 WHEREAS, this historical, intergenerational, and often unrecognized trauma continues to
 14 undermine and negatively impact Native American individuals, families, and communities;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Sixth
 16 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that this Legislature
 17 hears the voice of each Native American who survived the brutality of the boarding schools
 18 and acknowledges the atrocities that occurred; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Legislature solemnly recognizes the individual and
 20 collective suffering that so many endured as a result of policies to place and keep Native
 21 American children in the boarding schools; honors the survivors, their families, and their
 22 communities; and celebrates the courage, strength, and resiliency of the survivors.