



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6010

Introduced by: **Representative** Mortenson

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Acknowledging the need to protect our borders and**
2 **affirming South Dakota's support of the defense of the southern border.**

3 WHEREAS, our nation is facing an unprecedented crisis at our southern border, marked
4 by a significant increase in illegal border crossings, and posing severe threats to the safety,
5 security, and well-being of its residents; and

6 WHEREAS, the surge in illegal border crossings into the United States has led to a
7 disturbing influx of drugs, criminals, and human trafficking, exacerbating public safety
8 concerns and placing an undue burden on law enforcement and public resources; and

9 WHEREAS, the worst of the crisis is being borne by the southern border states, which
10 through expenditures of their own resources, are doing their best to defend their people and
11 this country from crime and chaos in spite of the failed immigration policies of the federal
12 government, which remains indifferent to the consequences of its inaction; and

13 WHEREAS, the protection of our nation's borders from invasion is fundamental to the
14 security, prosperity, and sovereignty of the nation; and

15 WHEREAS, each of the fifty states and their residents have a responsibility to safeguard
16 our respective citizens from internal and external threats; and

17 WHEREAS, twenty-five states, including South Dakota, stand with Texas as it takes on the
18 crisis in furtherance of its right to defend itself; and

19 WHEREAS, the current administration has failed in its constitutional obligation as provided
20 in Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution, which mandates that the federal
21 government is responsible from protecting each state from invasion; and

1 WHEREAS, in the last three years alone, over five million illegal immigrants have been
2 encountered at the southern border, in addition to nearly two million known "gotaways,"
3 underscoring the urgency for immediate action to secure the border and protect the safety
4 and well-being of the country's citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2023, South Dakota law enforcement intercepted fourteen pounds of
6 fentanyl, a substance with a lethal dose as minimal as two milligrams, which corresponds to
7 an amount of fentanyl with the potential to end the lives of over 3.1 million people, surpassing
8 the population of South Dakota by 3.5 times; and

9 WHEREAS, South Dakota has witnessed an alarming spike of over forty percent in
10 fentanyl-related overdoses as a share of total drug overdoses since 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, the majority of fentanyl in the United States originated from over the southern
12 border, with total pounds of fentanyl seized at the border surging by more than five hundred
13 sixty percent in the past three years, notwithstanding the far larger amount of fentanyl that
14 has crossed the border undetected; and

15 WHEREAS, states have the obligation to protect our people from all threats, especially
16 threats to the lives, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of our people;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth
18 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature
19 recognizes the need to protect our national border and mitigate the impact of the crisis at the
20 United States' southern border; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature affirms the obligation of each state to
22 protect its citizens, recognizing that the security and well-being of each state and their citizens
23 depends upon effective border patrol.