

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

952Y0294

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Haggar, Heinemann, Lesmeister, Livermont, Marty, and May
and Senators Maher, Heinert, Killer, Netherton, Sutton, and Wiik

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging an external audit of the Indian Health Service by
2 the United States Government Accountability Office.

3 WHEREAS, the United States has pledged to protect Native American Tribes through an
4 obligation to deliver adequate health care to all enrolled tribal members including those tribal
5 members on and off the reservations located in South Dakota; and

6 WHEREAS, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie provided that the United States would provide
7 certain benefits to Native Americans including medical services; and

8 WHEREAS, the medical services obligations of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie have never
9 expired; and

10 WHEREAS, it has been demanded for decades that the health care services provided to
11 Native Americans be improved through better administration, improved facilities, and improved
12 quality of patient care; and

13 WHEREAS, despite the demands for improvement, the Indian Health Service has continued
14 to decline, and has received citations by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for
15 substandard healthcare and some hospitals have had their Medicare provider agreements



1 revoked or suspended; and

2 WHEREAS, as a result of the poor quality of care, Native Americans of the Great Plains
3 Region suffer from the highest diabetes death rates, the highest tuberculosis death rates, and
4 higher incidences of other diseases than mainstream America, and the Great Plains Region has
5 the lowest life expectancy and second highest mortality rate among all Indian Health Service
6 regions in the United States:

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
8 Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that Congress
9 demand the United States Governmental Accountability Office conduct an external audit of the
10 Indian Health Service; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any audit include any third-party funding that is
12 received from other federal agencies to supplement Indian Health Service funding, and that the
13 audit be completed by October 1, 2017.