



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6007

Introduced by: **Representative Teunissen**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the United States Congress to allow**
 2 **veterans to receive long-term care services at facilities that do not otherwise**
 3 **meet the requirements set by the United States Department of Veterans**
 4 **Affairs.**

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota has a population of approximately sixty-three thousand three
 6 hundred and twenty-two resident veterans, of whom twenty thousand and seventy-one
 7 veterans are older than the age of seventy; and

8 WHEREAS, the current and only state veterans nursing home, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice
 9 South Dakota State Veterans Home, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the state,
 10 in Hot Springs, South Dakota; and

11 WHEREAS, long-stay services are available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home
 12 care for life or for an extended period of time if the veterans have a service-connected
 13 disability rated sixty percent and who are unable to be employed, or if the veterans have a
 14 seventy percent or greater service-connected disability; and

15 WHEREAS, the community nursing home program has contracts established with VA
 16 medical centers to help meet the needs of veterans who require long-term nursing home care
 17 in their own community, close to family, and meet the enrollment and eligibility requirements;
 18 and

19 WHEREAS, a nursing home must meet the requirements established by the VA for
 20 veterans to receive long term care services at the facility; and

21 WHEREAS, a veteran is eligible to be admitted to a community nursing home if the veteran
 22 receives an increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance, because the
 23 veteran must be permanently housed in a nursing home, or because the veteran is determined

1 to be catastrophically disabled by the chief of staff, of equivalent clinical officer, of the VA
2 facility where the veteran was examined; and

3 WHEREAS, any honorably discharged veteran who is at least seventy-nine years and one
4 day old receives full access to VA medical care based solely on the veterans honorable
5 discharge and age; and

6 WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs and rural states will face an increasing demand for long-term care services:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth
9 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature
10 encourages the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to amend the requirements for
11 a long-term care service provider to admit veterans to better allow veterans to receive
12 required and necessary care.