



2020 South Dakota Legislature  
**Senate Concurrent Resolution 603**  
 SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENGROSSED

*Introduced by: Senator Nesiba*

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the importance of gun safety.**

2 WHEREAS, public safety is paramount, it is desirable for citizens of the state of South  
 3 Dakota to reduce gun deaths and at the same time to fully respect the freedoms guaranteed  
 4 by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

5 WHEREAS, every day, one hundred Americans die by firearm and others are injured by  
 6 firearms<sup>1</sup>; and

7 WHEREAS, in the years 2004-2015, there were 798 firearm suicides in South Dakota, the  
 8 most common method used<sup>2</sup>; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2017, more South Dakotans died due to firearms (101 deaths) than by drug  
 10 overdoses (73 deaths)<sup>3</sup>; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and  
 12 Prevention, South Dakota had the 6th highest rate of suicide in the United States<sup>4</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, sixty-four percent of South Dakota veteran suicides in 2015 were by firearm<sup>5</sup>;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the  
 15 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, encourage all citizens  
 16 of the great state of South Dakota to support their communities' efforts to honor and value  
 17 human lives by recognizing the importance of gun safety.

**REFERENCES**

19 (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention  
 20 and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)  
 21 Fatal Injury Reports.

22 (2) <https://doh.sd.gov/documents/statistics/SuicideSurveillanceJan2017.pdf>

- 1       (3) [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths/drug-overdose-death-](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths/drug-overdose-death-2017.html)  
2           [2017.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths/drug-overdose-death-2017.html)
- 3       (4) [Deaths: Final Data for 2017. National Vital Statistics Reports. Volume 68, Number](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf)  
4           [9. June 24, 2019. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68\\_09-](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf)  
5           [508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf) (last accessed December 2019)
- 6       (5) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "State Data Sheets -2005-2017 State Data](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2017/2005-2017%20State%20Data%20Appendix.xlsx)  
7           [Appendix," available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2017/2005-2017%20State%20Data%20Appendix.xlsx)  
8           [sheets/2017/2005-2017 State Data Appendix.xlsx](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2017/2005-2017%20State%20Data%20Appendix.xlsx) (last accessed December  
9           [2019\)](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2017/2005-2017%20State%20Data%20Appendix.xlsx)