



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 603

Introduced by: **Senator Nesiba**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing June 5, 2020, as Gun Safety Awareness**
2 **Day.**

3 WHEREAS, every day, one hundred Americans die by firearm and countless others are
4 injured by firearms¹; and

5 WHEREAS, in the years 2004-2015, there were 798 firearm suicides in South Dakota, the
6 most common method used²; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2017, more South Dakotans died due to firearms (101 deaths) than by drug
8 overdoses (73 deaths)³; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and
10 Prevention, South Dakota had the 6th highest rate of suicide in the United States⁴; and

11 WHEREAS, sixty-four percent of South Dakota veteran suicides in 2015 were by firearm⁵;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, studies show that a firearm in the home TRIPLES the suicide risk for every
14 household member⁶; and

15 WHEREAS, studies show that eighty-five percent of firearms used in teenage suicide were
16 obtained from that teenager's own home⁷; and

17 WHEREAS, studies show that, amongst children and teenagers who bring a firearm to
18 school, approximately eighty percent of them obtained the firearm from their parent's or
19 another relative's home⁸; and

20 WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is among an elected
21 representative's highest responsibilities; and

1 WHEREAS, it is desirable for citizens and public servants of the state of South Dakota to
2 renew their commitment to reduce gun deaths; to pledge to do all they can, while respecting
3 the freedoms guaranteed by the constitution, to keep firearms out of the wrong hands; and
4 to encourage responsible gun ownership to keep our children safe:

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the
6 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that June 5, 2020,
7 be recognized as Gun Safety Awareness Day in the State of South Dakota and encourage all
8 citizens of the great state of South Dakota to support their communities' efforts to honor and
9 value human lives by ensuring the principles of gun safety.

10 **REFERENCES**

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12 and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)
13 Fatal Injury Reports.
- 14 (2) <https://doh.sd.gov/documents/statistics/SuicideSurveillanceJan2017.pdf>
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- 17 (4) Deaths: Final Data for 2017. National Vital Statistics Reports. Volume 68, Number
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19 [508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf) (last accessed December 2019)
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21 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)
22 [sheets/2017/2005-2017 State Data Appendix.xlsx](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2017/2005-2017 State Data Appendix.xlsx) (last accessed December
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25 suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic
26 review and meta-analysis. Annals of Internal Medicine. 2014; 160(2): 101-110.
- 27 (7) Suicide Prevention Resource Center - Counseling on Access to Lethal Means.
28 <https://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/calm-counseling-access-lethal-means>
29 (last accessed December 2019)
- 30 (8) Woodrow Cox J, Rich S. 'The gun's not in the closet.' The Washington Post. August
31 1, 2018. <https://wapo.st/2TyDnTW>. The study analyzed acts of gun violence at
32 primary and secondary schools involving shooters under the age of 18 since 1999
33 finding that of the 105 cases in which the gun's source was identified, 80 percent
34 were acquired from the child's home or those of relatives or friends.