OWN YOUR FUTURE

Office of the Governor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

November 21, 2006

Dear Fellow South Dakotans:

Most of us live such busy lives that it is difficult to plan for next week, let alone plan for our future. The reason I am sending this letter to you and many citizens is because planning for our future is important.

Most of us don't like to think about aging and the day that may come when we need help with daily activities. In reality, many of us will need some form of long-term care. While the need for long-term care is a normal part of aging, the majority of us do not plan adequately for this need or the costs.

The state of South Dakota and the federal government are collaborating on a new initiative called "Own Your Future." The primary goal of this initiative is to encourage people in our age group, between 45 and 65, to start planning for their future long-term care needs now, instead of waiting until it is too late.

As a first step in the planning process to owning your future, I encourage you to order the "Long-Term Care Planning Kit" created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This planning kit includes some basic facts about long-term care and describes some things you can do to plan for your financial, housing and healthcare needs as you get older. There are several ways to order:

1) Call 1-866-PLAN-LTC (1-866-752-6582); or
2) Return the postage paid reply card attached to the enclosed brochure; or
3) Download or order an electronic version by visiting www.aoa.gov/ownyourfuture.

Be a part of owning your future today by ordering your free "Long-Term Care Planning Kit."

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds

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