

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1854

A Resolution recognizing the misuse and abuse of prescription drug medications as a major threat to public health and safety in Kansas and nationwide.

WHEREAS, Drug abuse in the United States increasingly means the misuse and abuse of prescription drug medications. Drug overdose is now the second most common cause of accidental death in the nation, killing more than gunshot wounds and behind only traffic accidents; and

WHEREAS, Prescription drugs are a substantial factor in a growing number of American deaths considered to be drug induced. Emergency room visits and unintentional overdose deaths involving prescription drugs have increased sharply; and

WHEREAS, Barry R. Grissom, United States Attorney, District of Kansas, has declared that "prescription drugs are being used, misused, and abused at an alarming rate" and that he is "seeing more cases of accidental poisoning, addiction and overdose deaths. It is not an overstatement to call this an epidemic in the truest sense of the word. It has become a major threat to public health and public safety"; and

WHEREAS, Unused prescription narcotics at home contribute to drug abuse and risks of accidental deaths of children and the elderly. The 2010 Monitoring the Future survey found that six of the top 10 substances abused by high school seniors are prescription drugs. Federal studies show that many teens use the prescription drugs because they think they are safer than illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, The second leading source of abused prescription drugs is the home medicine cabinet. The number one sources are friends and relatives, who often get the prescription drugs from other people's medicine cabinets. This demonstrates the importance of disposing unused prescription medications rather than leaving them in a medicine cabinet at home; and

WHEREAS, The federal Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored this past weekend's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 30, 2011, where more than 4,000 locations nationwide, including more than 50 locations in Kansas, had bins set up for people to dispose of any and all unused prescription drugs. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is part of a federal aim to cut prescription drug abuse by 15% in the next 10 years. The first nationwide prescription drug drop-off event occurred in September of 2010 and resulted in 121 tons of prescription drug medications being collected and incinerated nationwide; and

WHEREAS, It must be recognized that a drug cabinet full of old or unused prescription medicine is a health hazard, increasing the risk of poison and abuse among adults, teenagers and children across the state and across the nation: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize the misuse and abuse of prescription drug medications as a major threat to public health and safety in Kansas and nationwide; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1854 was sponsored by Senator David Haley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*