

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1830

A RESOLUTION recognizing the need to protect animals and children from the danger of antifreeze poisoning.

WHEREAS, For six wonderful years, Nikko, a Shiba Inu, and Aaron Coash, a 12-year-old Kansas boy were best friends. They competed in dog shows together and brought happiness to older adults in nursing homes. However, one day when Aaron returned home from school, Nikko was not there to greet him. The dog had wandered off on an ill-fated adventure and ended up drinking antifreeze. Nikko's health quickly declined and after a week of pain due to the antifreeze poisoning, the dog died; and

WHEREAS, Antifreeze poisoning kills an estimated 10,000 animals and more than a thousand children each year, according to the Humane Society of the United States. The main component of antifreeze is ethylene glycol, which tastes sweet and attracts pets and children. The poison attacks the kidneys and by the time symptoms are evident, the kidneys are already failing. A mere teaspoon of antifreeze can kill a small dog; and

WHEREAS, In order to protect children and pets, 17 states in the U.S. (Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin) have signed into law or enacted law requiring the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze; and

WHEREAS, The addition of a bittering agent such as denatonium benzoate would render engine coolants and antifreeze bitter-tasting and unpalatable; and

WHEREAS, Consumers are often not aware that in some states bulk sales of antifreeze are not required to have a bittering agent. This means that a trip to the local refueling station will bring home untreated antifreeze. The bittering agent, denatonium benzoate, adds only a minimal cost increase to manufacturers, about two to three cents per bottle; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Coash has requested a bill for introduction in the Kansas legislature that would require all antifreeze sold in the state of Kansas to contain a chemical that turns its sweet taste bitter. He is calling it Nikko's law, in honor of his dog: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize the need to protect animals and children from the danger of antifreeze poisoning and commend Aaron Coash for his efforts in proposing Nikko's law; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator McGinn.

Senate Resolution No. 1830 was sponsored by Senator Carolyn McGinn.

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.*