

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1703

**A RESOLUTION recognizing November 14, 2024, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
in the State of Kansas.**

WHEREAS, Kansas was at the epicenter of the landmark United States Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, which was decided on May 17, 1954, and handed down the unanimous decision that racially segregated public schools violated the 14th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Senate and House of Representatives passed SR 1756 and HR 6047, respectively, commemorating 2024 as the 70th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which made segregation in public schools illegal in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In its ruling, the Supreme Court of the United States determined that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and every citizen of the United States deserves equal education; and

WHEREAS, Ruby Nell Bridges is an American activist who became a symbol of the civil rights movement at age six when she was the youngest of a group of African American students designated to integrate public schools; and

WHEREAS, On November 14, 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges attended all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the only African American student enrolled at the school; and

WHEREAS, Artist Norman Rockwell celebrated Ruby Bridges' courage in 1964 with a painting of Ruby's first day of school entitled "The Problem We All Live With," making Ruby Bridges the national icon for desegregation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bridges established The Ruby Bridges Foundation in 1999 to promote "the values of tolerance, respect and appreciation of all differences;" and

WHEREAS, Around November 14 of every year, students, staff and teachers across the country honor Ms. Bridges and the courage it took to walk through the doors of William Franz Elementary School in 1960 by participating in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by Ruby Bridges' story, the children of Kansas have invited her to Topeka, Kansas, on November 14, 2024, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, which made her journey possible: Now, therefore,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize November 14, 2024, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in the State of Kansas; and**

***Be it further resolved:* That we join the children of Kansas in inviting Ruby Bridges to Topeka, Kansas, on November 14, 2024, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education; and**

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

Senate Resolution No. 1703 was sponsored by Senator Oletha Faust Goudeau.

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

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.