

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1842

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 source is 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, Americans that participated in the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration's third National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 29, 2011, turned in more than 377,086 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,327 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. When the results of the three prior Take-Back Days are combined, the Drug Enforcement Administration and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed 995,185 pounds of medication from circulation in the past 13 months; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced on November 15, 2011 that Kansans had turned in 3,809 pounds of unused prescription drugs during the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 29, 2011, which was the highest total amount of medications collected in Kansas since the program began in 2010. Local law enforcement officials collected the unused medications at 60 locations throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs and need to safely dispose of those medications; 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 we encourage Kansans all across the state to participate in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 28, 2012 to safely dispose of unused prescription medications; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Haley, Barry R. Grissom, United States Attorney, District of Kansas and the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy.

Senate Resolution No. 1842 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.