

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1757

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, National data show that as many as 16 million Americans age 12 or older have abused controlled prescription medications, including pain relievers, tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants; 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 second leading source of abused prescription drugs is in 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 in 2012 turned in more than 552,161 pounds, or 276 tons, of prescription drugs at over 5,600 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,300 state and local law enforcement partners. Last year, more than 5,300 pounds of unused prescription drugs were collected during Kansas' drug take-back day. On April 27, 2013, Kansans set a new record during the national drug take-back day event, collecting more than 10,000 pounds, or 5 tons, of unused medications from 101 locations across the state; 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. 1757 was sponsored by Senator David Haley.

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.