SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1707

A RESOLUTION recognizing the need for the Governor of Kansas to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to law-abiding Kansans before administering the vaccine to healthy incarcerated individuals.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a great deal of personal, social and economic suffering for Kansans; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the triumph of American ingenuity in developing a vaccine to combat the spread of COVID-19 and the previous Presidential administration's ability to accelerate and distribute a vaccine for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Kansas had several months to develop a comprehensive plan for distributing and administering the COVID-19 vaccine in order to save lives and protect Kansans; and

WHEREAS, On January 4, 2021, the Center for Disease Control reported that Kansas ranked last in the United States in total vaccines administered per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, The current data released by the Center for Disease Control indicates that Kansas ranks 48th out of 50 states for COVID-19 vaccines administered per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, Kansas correctional facilities house the most violent offenders in our state; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Kansas submitted a COVID-19 vaccination plan that prioritizes the COVID-19 vaccination of healthy incarcerated individuals over Kansans between the ages of 16 to 64 who have severe medical risks; and

WHEREAS, Prioritizing the COVID-19 vaccination of healthy incarcerated individuals would lead to instances wherein healthy convicted violent or sexual offenders would be offered life-saving vaccines before their victims; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kelly and Secretary Norman have reported that current vaccine capacity falls far too short of the state's ability to vaccinate all Kansans in Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination plan; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Department of Correction employees working in prisons have already received the vaccine, and they should remain a priority in Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, We believe the duty of the Kansas Legislature is to uphold the rule of law and promote the exercise of law-abiding citizens: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: **That we call upon the Governor of Kansas to revise her Administration's current COVID-19 vaccination plan by removing prisoners from the front of the line in Phase 2 and instead prioritizing the vaccination of the elderly, the teachers and those aged 16 to 64 who have severe medical risks; and**

Be it further resolved: **That we urge the Office of the Governor of Kansas to prioritize this issue and respond to the Legislature with their updated plan without delay; and**

Be it further resolved: **That the Secretary of the Senate shall send 10 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Hilderbrand.**

Senate Resolution No. 1707 was sponsored by Senator Richard Hilderbrand.

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.