

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6015

A RESOLUTION recognizing March 20, 2019, as Kick Butts Day and condemning e-cigarette use as a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms.

WHEREAS, Kick Butts Day is observed across the nation on March 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, First observed in 1996, Kick Butts Day encourages and empowers students annually to "stand out, speak up, and seize control against Big Tobacco," under the direction of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and

WHEREAS, On Kick Butts Day, events are organized to further three main goals. These goals include "raising awareness of the problem of tobacco use," encouraging students "to reject the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free," and urging government leaders to safeguard youth against tobacco use through official action; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 10 years, e-cigarette use, commonly known as vaping, has skyrocketed among America's youth. Recently, the U.S. Surgeon General reported a 78% annual increase in e-cigarette use among high school students nationwide. Currently, one in 10 of Kansas' 11,500 high school student-smokers is an e-cigarette user; and

WHEREAS, E-cigarettes contain toxic chemicals, including propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin and flavorings, and nicotine, that are known to ravage users' oral and overall health. These chemicals have been linked to the destruction of tooth enamel, cavities, gum disease, death of gum tissue, and other medical issues; and

WHEREAS, Nicotine is a highly addictive substance that poses a special harm to adolescent users. Adolescent users can become more easily addicted to nicotine than adults, and the resulting addictions can render the brain more susceptible to other drug addictions, including cocaine; and

WHEREAS, Juul e-cigarettes are highly popular among America's youth. They are designed to resemble ordinary flash drives and are easily concealed in pockets, purses, and book bags. Additionally, Juul e-cigarettes use Juul pods containing nicotine salts, a form of delivery that is far more effective and potent than e-liquids; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner and the U.S. Surgeon General have declared adolescent e-cigarette use an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association are working to combat the explosion of adolescent e-cigarette use. In March 2018, the American Lung Association challenged the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's August 2017 decision exempting e-cigarettes from agency review for several years. The suit was filed in conjunction with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, an affiliate of the American Cancer Society, other public health and medical groups, and five individual pediatricians; and

WHEREAS, Overcoming the harms of e-cigarette use is extremely difficult for the afflicted individual to address alone: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we recognize March 20, 2019, as Kick Butts Day. We condemn e-cigarette use as a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms. Accordingly, we recognize the need for additional education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal levels, and we urge this chamber and other governing bodies to take appropriate steps to ensure that these needs are met.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.