

Senate Resolution No. 1707

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-2

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the need for the Governor of Kansas to
2 administer the COVID-19 vaccine to law-abiding Kansans before
3 administering the vaccine to healthy incarcerated individuals.
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5 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a great deal of
6 personal, social and economic suffering for Kansans; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, We believe the duty of the Kansas Legislature is to

1 uphold the rule of law and promote the exercise of law-abiding citizens:

2 Now, therefore,

3 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we call upon
4 the Governor of Kansas to revise her Administration's current COVID-19
5 vaccination plan by removing prisoners from the front of the line in Phase
6 2 and instead prioritizing the vaccination of the elderly, the teachers and
7 those aged 16 to 64 who have severe medical risks; and

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

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