

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____

By Senators Wilborn, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Denning, Estes, Hardy, Hilderbrand,
Kerschen, Longbine, Masterson, Olson, Petersen and Suellentrop

A RESOLUTION recognizing September 1–7, 2019, as Resiliency Week in Kansas.

WHEREAS, Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. It is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is designed to assist states and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural-hazard mitigation program; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation recently enacted the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, making new dollars available for states and communities to undertake pre-disaster mitigation measures and creating new incentives for states to build resiliently; and

WHEREAS, Since 1908, natural disasters have cost the country more than 1 trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Disasters affect the local and state economies in lost payrolls and lost sales and income tax, which in turn affect disaster-recovery times; and

WHEREAS, According to a FEMA-commissioned study conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation with \$6 in future benefits; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of small businesses that are impacted by a natural disaster never reopen their doors; and

WHEREAS, September is National Preparedness Month, and Kansas Preparedness Month is a recognition of the need for all Americans to prepare and plan for recovery after a disaster; and

WHEREAS, Mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster damage,

reconstruction and repeated damages; and

WHEREAS, Effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for relief services on volunteer organizations, such as disaster, rescue and recovery teams, along with food banks and homeless shelters that serve communities by changing their operations to provide additional services to those affected by disaster; and

WHEREAS, This body honors the brave men and women who, as first responders, selflessly provide aid in a disaster to safeguard Kansas citizens; and

WHEREAS, This body encourages Kansas communities to build resilience and develop long-term mitigation strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize September 1–7, 2019, as Resiliency Week in Kansas to raise public awareness about the continuing need to plan for future disasters by instituting a pre-disaster mitigation strategy; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Wilborn.