

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1733

A RESOLUTION honoring the 70th anniversary of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.

WHEREAS, In 2019, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns is celebrating 70 years of advocating and championing equal rights and opportunities for Kansans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, the Kansas Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped was created by statute to promote employment for people with physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, the committee became the Kansas Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, under the direction of then-director Joe Greve and Howard Moses; and

WHEREAS, The committee continued to prioritize the employment of handicapped Kansans; advocated for accessible parking and tax credits for making a person's home or business handicapped-accessible; and established accessibility standards for buildings, facilities, recreational areas, streets, curbing, sidewalks and apartments; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, the committee became the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns; and

WHEREAS, Director Michael Lechner and the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living partnered and held the first Kansas Disability Caucus to formulate the legislative initiatives to expand home and community-based services; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Disability Caucus successfully advocated to amend the Nurse Practice Act to ensure that in-home services can be provided by trained individuals instead of registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, These changes lowered costs and allowed new waivers to be written that allowed people with disabilities to direct their services and increase their opportunities to work; and

WHEREAS, Moving into the 21st century, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns partnered with independent living centers, Families Together, Kansas Rehabilitation Services and Special Education to establish the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns recognizes people with disabilities are equal citizens and partners in society. The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns supports their vision by focusing on partnerships, information and referrals at the state, regional and local levels and by providing policy recommendations for changes to Kansas laws, regulations and programs that impact people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The commission provides information to the public with disabilities on employment, school, home, play, community, youth issues and disability history; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum is a week-long event for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities that provides training in leadership skills regarding goal-setting for higher education or vocational training and employment and instruction on disability civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns also provides staff training and accessible computer equipment to Workforce Centers across the state, in addition to establishing a disability service website for use by job-seekers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Due to the support of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, the Disability Mentoring Day is celebrated across the state each October: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we honor the 70th anniversary of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Billinger.

Senate Resolution No. 1733 was sponsored by Senators Billinger, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Bollier, Bowers, Braun, Denning, Doll, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Givens, Goddard, Haley, Hardy, Hawk, Hensley, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kerschen, Longbine, Lynn, Masterson, McGinn, Olson, Petersen, Pettey, Pilcher-Cook, Pyle, Rucker, Skubal, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle, Ware and Wilborn.

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.