

**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.  
4

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 48<sup>th</sup> 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.