

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6024

A RESOLUTION designating the month of April as Minority Health Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, The overall health and well-being of all Kansas citizens is important and is directly related to the quality of life of the citizens of this great state; and

WHEREAS, The rates of overweight and obese individuals has been increasing in the United States in recent years. Obesity increases an individual's risk of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and many other illnesses. In Kansas, the rate of obesity is 25% for whites, 30% for Hispanics and 40% for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Despite the growing scientific evidence documenting the importance of fruits and vegetables to a healthy diet, four out of five Kansans, regardless of race and ethnicity, do not eat the daily recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables, underscoring the importance of raising awareness about healthy lifestyle choices; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Kansas children, adults and elders suffer from poor health as a result of lack of access to appropriate health care because of race, ethnicity, cultural differences, gender, socioeconomic status, geographical location and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, These health disparities are compounded by factors including poverty, health care provider shortages, patient health care preferences and lifestyle choices; and

WHEREAS, Activities such as research, improved public policy and appropriate legislation can help to remove health related barriers and disparities facing racial, ethnic and tribal populations and increase awareness of the importance of managing our health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Regardless of race, age, gender, disability or socioeconomic status, all Kansans should have the opportunity to actively participate in the management of their personal health and well-being through proper nutrition, moderate exercise and regular health screenings: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we designate the month of April as Minority Health Awareness Month and that we urge all Kansans to join in this observance.

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

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*