TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, student-related housing fires across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our nation; and

WHEREAS, since January 2000, in the United States, at least 175 people, including students, parents, and children have died in college-related fires; and

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a majority of college students live in off-campus occupancies; and

WHEREAS, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building’s occupants; and

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of Kansans about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAURA KELLY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2019 as

Campus Fire Safety Month

In Kansas and urge all the citizens to participate in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 2nd day of September, A.D. 2019

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State