

## House Resolution No. 6026

By Representatives Davis, Burroughs, Phelps, Ballard, Winn and Tietze

4-28

1 A RESOLUTION condemning the remarks of Representative Virgil Peck  
2 regarding undocumented immigrants.

3 WHEREAS, Representative Virgil Peck made national and  
4 international headlines on March 14, 2011. During a House Appropriations  
5 committee meeting, he suggested that the state shoot undocumented  
6 immigrants from helicopters in the same manner that is used to  
7 exterminate the state's feral hog population; and

8 WHEREAS, When approached about his comment, Representative  
9 Virgil Peck unapologetically responded that he was "just joking," and that  
10 he was "just speaking like a southeast Kansas person"; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Virgil Peck's comment has garnered  
12 criticism in Kansas, nationally and around the world. In response, he  
13 issued a one-line statement on March 15, 2011, which stated his comments  
14 were "regrettable"; and

15 WHEREAS, To say that these comments were simply "regrettable" in a  
16 one-line statement does not display the remorse that is necessary to  
17 remedy this wrong; and

18 WHEREAS, The Legislature condemns Representative Virgil Peck's  
19 comments for the following reasons:

20 1. Representative Peck has the right to free speech, and this House  
21 stands in full support of that right. However, that right does not include  
22 the advocacy of gratuitous deadly violence against other human beings;

23 2. Representative Virgil Peck's words cast a negative light on this  
24 respected institution, the Southeast Kansas region and the entire State of  
25 Kansas; and

26 3. Elected officials must be held to a higher standard. The Kansas  
27 Legislature must send a clear message that uncivil discourse is not  
28 condoned in this body; and

29 WHEREAS, Human immigration is an important part of our past and  
30 our future. Endorsing violent acts against any individual or group cannot  
31 be tacitly or explicitly condoned. Violent acts cannot be condoned by  
32 those who hold leadership positions, either by their words or by their  
33 silence, in a civil society. Furthermore, endorsements of violent acts  
34 should not be published where they could appear to legitimize such acts:  
35 Now, therefore,

36 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*

- 1 That Kansas must affirm its reputation as a welcoming and tolerant state.
- 2 Moreover, the Kansas Legislature must affirm its commitment to
- 3 respectful communication on all matters, no matter what our political
- 4 opinions.