

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6042

A RESOLUTION celebrating the historic and immense contributions of the Hispanic and Latino communities to the United States and Kansas economies.

WHEREAS, March 6, 2024, is recognized as "Latina Day at the Capitol" to celebrate and honor the achievements of Latina women throughout the history of the United States and Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Since the late 1800s, particularly during the times of railroad expansion, Hispanic and Latino communities have served as an invaluable asset to the United States and Kansas economies; and

WHEREAS, The first Mexican guest-worker program, lasting from 1917 through 1921, and the second guest-worker program known as the Bracero program, lasting from 1942 through 1964, brought over 4.5 million Hispanic and Latino guest workers to the United States to work in the agricultural and railroad industries and support the United States' economy during World War I and World War II; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Hispanic and Latino individuals accounted for 93% of H-2A visa recipients, a vital program that contributes to the well-being of the agriculture of the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are 63.7 million Hispanic and Latino individuals throughout the United States and over 382,000 Latinos residing specifically in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos contribute to society by working in many important industries, including agriculture, construction, hospitality, meat packaging, food services and public service across the United States and Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Kansas Hispanic and Latino communities held more than \$595 million in spending power and paid nearly \$80 million in state and local taxes in 2019; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 12.6 million Latinas in the United States workforce, comprising 15% of the wider female workforce—a statistic that continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latino communities make up 5.6% of small business owners in Kansas and approximately 10% of small business owners nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Latina entrepreneurs represent nearly half of all Latino businesses and create businesses six times faster than any other group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Latinas continue to break through barriers and thrive, in spite of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Leadership organizations, such as the Latino Community Network, Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation and Diversidad Latina, continue to promote civic engagement, education and advocacy in Hispanic and Latino communities throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The social fabric of the United States and Kansas has been enriched by Hispanic and Latino heritage, culture and traditions: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we celebrate the Hispanic and Latino communities for their historic and immense contributions to the United States and Kansas economies.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.