

**WHEREAS,** human trafficking is a form of abuse and exploitation on the continuum of violence which involves the commoditization of human beings for both labor and sexual purpose, robbing individuals of their freedom, dignity and right to self-determination; and

**WHEREAS,** Sedgwick County is not immune to this crime, as vulnerable youth and adults who are at-risk to become victims of sexual exploitation, traffickers who exploit vulnerabilities, and buyers who drive demand and survivors on their way to healing and prosperity all live in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** Sedgwick County has recognized and acknowledged human trafficking as an issue in our community and has led the way in efforts to combat human trafficking in the state of Kansas through multidisciplinary collaboration, community awareness, education, training, research, and policy development; and

**WHEREAS,** Wichita State University, Center for Combating Human Trafficking and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recognize the commitment of the Sedgwick County community to educate and raise awareness about human trafficking to create contexts in which prosperity and growth are possible for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim January 2019 as

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**

And call on all Sedgwick County businesses, organization, faith-based groups and families to recognize the vital role they can play in ending all forms of abuse and exploitation, like human trafficking, and urge all citizens to join in observing this month with appropriate programs and activities.

January 9, 2019