

WHEREAS, Public Law 100-29, enacted by Congress in 1987, designated the month of April as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month”; and

WHEREAS, there were 256 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect and 1,585 children in the Wichita region removed from their homes in 2018 [by the Kansas Department of Children and Families with the assistance of law enforcement;] and

WHEREAS, the average length of stay in an out of home placement for children in foster care in the Wichita region is 21 months with as many as 8 different placements during this period; and

WHEREAS, respecting the privacy and dignity of child abuse victims during removals is important to the safety and well-being of the children; every child has the right to a more humane experience in foster care, and that starts by providing them with luggage to pack their belongings in instead of trash bags; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Trash bag Handbag organized by the Junior League of Wichita provide agencies with new luggage cases for use during removals and provide for a more dignified private removal and relocation; and

WHEREAS, everyone should know that many children throughout our county and state are in need of a loving home.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby recognize April 8 – 12, 2019 as

TRASH BAG HANDBAG WEEK

in Sedgwick County and encourage all citizens become more aware of child abuse prevention and intervention efforts and support the work of local law enforcement and community agencies that is vital to alleviating the suffering of children in need and promote a safe, nurturing and healthy environment for all of our children.

April 10, 2019