

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____

By Senator Faust-Goudeau

A RESOLUTION recognizing Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs.

WHEREAS, According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who are proficient in reading by the end of third grade are more likely to graduate from high school and be economically successful in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, 57% of Caucasian, 72% of Hispanic and 83% of African-American fourth graders in Kansas scored below the "proficient" reading level in a 2017 study conducted by the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP); and

WHEREAS, Many underserved populations in Kansas are lacking the quality literacy skills essential for future success in school and life; and

WHEREAS, Storytime Village, Inc., under the leadership of Director Prisca Barnes, has been working since 2009 to help Kansas children, beginning at birth through age eight, thrive in partnerships that provide early childhood development, family engagement involving reading and access to books; and

WHEREAS, With the support of parents and the help of many dedicated volunteers, Storytime Village, Inc., inspires children, regardless of their socio-economic background, race or gender, to read by providing them free books and literacy resources; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Storytime Village, Inc., launched their Literacy Champions program, a high school leadership program that empowers and inspires students to volunteer and gain leadership skills as they impact the literacy issue in their communities; and

WHEREAS, March 20, 2019, is designated as the 5th Literacy Day at the Capitol, which will focus on addressing the literacy gap in Kansas by mobilizing high school students to raise their voices

through meetings with legislators, panel discussions and an advocacy workshop, with the theme: "Why Reading Matters": Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize Storytime Village, Inc., for its work in giving young Kansas children the opportunity for a better future through its literacy programs; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Prisca Barnes, Wakeelah Martinez and Senator Faust-Goudeau.