

Proclamation

WHEREAS, despite ongoing efforts to better protect child pedestrians, child pedestrian injury remains the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14 in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, each year, an average 626 children ages 14 and under die from pedestrian-related injuries and more than 38,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in hospital emergency rooms in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the total annual cost of traffic-related pedestrian injury among children ages 14 and under is \$5.2 billion in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the majority of pedestrian deaths and injuries are traffic-related in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, environmental modifications, when made in conjunction with enforcement of traffic laws and increased penalties for traffic violations, are proven to reduce traffic-related pedestrian death and injury; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of International Walk to School Day 2009, children, parents, educators, community leaders, Safe Kids coalitions and FedEx employees are joining together nationwide to walk to school and evaluate pedestrian safety in their community; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids Kansas has planned pedestrian safety activities and school-based events for International Walk to School Day 2009 in an effort to educate children and families about the importance of pedestrian safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Parkinson, Governor of the State of Kansas do hereby proclaim October 7, 2009 as

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

and call upon all the residents of this state to join with me in supporting the efforts and activities of Safe Kids Kansas to prevent pedestrian injuries and deaths to our children.