TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, this July 26th, marks the 26th anniversary of the day President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities and on September 17, 2008 President George W. Bush signed the ADA Amendments Act to re-establish the civil rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole from Kansas played a leading role in the ADA's development and passage; and

WHEREAS, the ADA established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Kansas believes all people with disabilities are equal citizens and continues to work to make its programs, services, and activities accessible and usable to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas has supported community inclusion through such programs as Home and Community Based Services, reducing technological barriers through the Kansas Partnership for Accessible Technology, and making people with disabilities full partners in emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas has affirmed its commitment to expanding integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities through programs, such as, implementation of the Employment First policy and summits, the employment pilots in the KanCare program, the Work and Working Healthy programs, the Kansas Bidders Preference Program for Kansas contractors who hire people with disabilities and who purchase from Use vendors, and the Career Tech Education program which expands vocational training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was passed which will allow greater access to economic and community opportunities:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby recognize the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 26th Anniversary

in Kansas and on the 26th anniversary of the ADA, the State of Kansas celebrates and recognizes the progress that has been made and we should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of equality and inclusion.

Assistant Secretary of State