

RESOLUTION OF THE KANSAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the mission of the Kansas Human Rights Commission is to prevent and eliminate discrimination and assure equal opportunities in all employment relations, to eliminate profiling in conjunction with traffic stops, to eliminate and prevent discrimination, segregation or separation, and assure equal opportunities in all places of public accommodations and in housing.

WHEREAS, the Commission, founded 58 years ago, serves all Kansans and is held in high regard with other states often using our agency as a model. The Commission has been recognized by the International Association of Human Rights Agencies, Legislators, and others. The Commission serves a critical need in our society, resolving in excess of 2,300 complaints and recovering more than \$2.1 million on behalf of complainants since Fiscal Year 2009 - despite extensive State General Fund budget cuts.

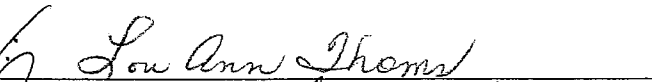
WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of a proposal to move the Commission under the control of the Kansas Attorney General. The Commission has been an independent agency. Maintaining that status is critical to accomplish its mission, to retain the public's confidence, and to avoid complicated and unnecessary conflicts of interest.

WHEREAS, the proposed move to the Kansas Attorney General is likely to change the public's perception from the Commission being unbiased and fair to being under the control of the Attorney General and subject to significant political influence and potential interference with investigations and decisions.

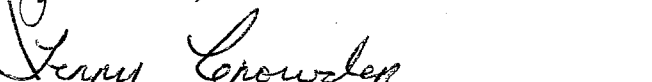
WHEREAS, the proposal eliminates the key leadership positions of the Executive Director, Chief Legal Counsel, and Administrative Specialist, and their more than 60 years of experience and expertise in the civil rights field.

WHEREAS, the proposal's State General Fund goal will be achieved with the Kansas Human Rights Commission remaining independent and continuing to investigate complaints in unbiased, fair, timely and impartial manner.

NOW THEREFORE, on this date of March 3, 2011, the Commission opposes the transfer of the Kansas Human Rights Commission to the Kansas Attorney General.



Lou Ann Thoms, Chair


Clyde Howard, Vice Chair


Terry Crowder, Commissioner


David Hanson, Commissioner


Anthony Villegas, Commissioner


Jerome Williams, Commissioner