WHEREAS, the new coronavirus named "SARS-CoV-2" has caused an international outbreak of respiratory disease named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated as "COVID-19") that is affecting Missourians; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) convened the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) Emergency Committee "regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019 in the People's Republic of China, with exportations to other countries"; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the January thirtieth meeting, the Director-General of the WHO declared that the COVID-19 outbreak is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC); and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services declared, retroactive to January 27, 2020, that a nationwide public health emergency exists because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Director-General of the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak is a national emergency, retroactive to March 1, 2020; and
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Mike Parson declared a state of emergency in Missouri because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, acting in the best interests of students to protect their health is of primary importance to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE); and

WHEREAS, school districts should be able to make crucial decisions relating to COVID-19 that reflect the needs of their community without fear of penalties for acting in the best interests of the health and safety of students:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby:

(1) Encourage DESE to continue to work with districts for emergency waivers for the statewide assessments testing window because of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

(2) Encourage DESE to continue to work with districts for emergency waivers for any Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) standards that may be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives will strive to ensure that funding for school districts will not be reduced if schools do not meet the requirements for minimum hours or school days as required by state law because of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the state Commissioner of Education.