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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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Correction from Wk 3 – Kansas became a state in 1861 not 1961.

[Campus Carry Bill: Dead in Senate Committee, House Hears Testimony](#)

Tuesday, the Senate Federal and State Committee voted on Senate Bill 53, which would grant universities, hospitals, and other state buildings exemption from the concealed carry law set to take effect in July 2017. SB 53 died in the committee on a voice vote.

On Wednesday, February 1st, the House Federal and State Committee heard testimony regarding HB 2151, legislation very similar to SB 53. The House committee vote has not yet been scheduled.

[MEDICAID EXPANSION](#) on the Agenda!

HB 2064, Important hearings have been scheduled for a Medicaid Expansion bill.

- Feb 6th, KanCare Bridge (Medicaid Expansion) (Neutral)
- Feb 8th, KanCare Bridge (Medicaid Expansion) (Proponents)
- Feb 9th, KanCare Bridge (Medicaid Expansion) (Opponents)
- Feb 15th, KanCare Bridge (Medicaid Expansion)

The public is urged to attend, sign up to testify and/or send testimony. My assistant will help you to accomplish this. Just call my office for help at 785-296-7657.

[Kansas Jobs Report](#)

Thursday, February 2nd, the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics released its jobs report. As of December 2016, Kansas had 9,300 **fewer** jobs than in December of 2015 – meaning that our state is experiencing **negative job growth**. Compared to the rest of the United States, Kansas has the **fifth-worst job growth rate**.

[Autism bill](#)

I introduced a bill in the Transportation Committee **HB 2148** which will be heard on February 14th at 1:30 in room 582-N. The bill would allow the Revenue from the sale of a new Autism tag to support an Autism center in an underserved area of Kansas.

[HB 2018 – Forfeiture and Seizure](#)

An audit report was released by the Legislative post audit report highlighting specifically Kansas civil forfeiture policy. The report was asked to answer two questions: 1) How does Kansas compare to other states when dealing with civil forfeiture and 2) Are law enforcement agencies following the laws and guidelines dealing with forfeiture and seizure. In the report it was noted Kansas and Iowa as well as the federal government doesn't require a conviction before items are forfeited, a new bill HB 2018 seeks to end this. The study also reported that other states (Missouri, New Mexico and Nebraska) require centralized reporting of forfeited property but Kansas does not. And Kansas does not have penalties for not reporting requirements. Meaning, should an agency not report any gains in forfeiture funds there is no agency to prevent this from happening and non-reporting is able to continue without oversight.

Rep Gail Finney has offered a bill to correct this problem in Kansas buy requiring a conviction before property can be permanently confiscated.

House Bills to Watch

HB 2006: An act concerning counties; relating to the methods used in expansion of the board of county commissioners (**Passed**)

HB 2002 (passed) - The house voted on HB 2002; 121-1. Exempts the Legislative Division of Post Audit (LPA) from paying the Monumental Building Surcharge. I voted yes

HB 2006 (passed) - The house voted on HB 2006; 121-1. Deals with the expansion of Boards of County Commissions. The bill strikes the requirement that the Governor appoint the new members and replaces it with a requirement to hold a special election. I voted yes

Senate Bill 53, a similar bill was heard last week in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. The bill would grant a permanent exemption from the concealed carry laws in public buildings, specifically state-run hospitals and universities. The bill died in committee.

HB 2074, on Wednesday, February 1st, the House Federal and State Committee heard testimony regarding the Campus Carry repeal bill. The testimony followed the Senate Federal and State Committee's vote on the bill, which died in committee on a voice vote. The House committee will vote on the bill soon.

Native American Legislators Day

Wednesday, February 1st was Native American Legislators Day, and our own Rep. Ponka-We Victors, D- Wichita, helped to organize a celebration in the Capitol. Traditional music and dance was on display on the 2nd floor, featuring members of the Prairie Band Potawatomie Boys and Girls Club Dance Troupe. Other events throughout the day were sponsored by the Four Tribes of Kansas, which include Prairie Band Potawatomie, Kickapoo of Kansas, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Kansas.



Dr. Angela Davis

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a month-long celebration recognizing achievements and accomplishments of outstanding African American citizens.

The KSU Black Student Union sponsored 1960's Civil Rights Activist and scholar, Dr. Angela Davis, to be the Key Note Speaker and kick off Black History Month February 1, at the K-State Student Union's Grand Ballroom. Davis spoke to a packed ballroom of over 1200 students, community members and guests about current issues relating to racial discrimination.

The audience spilled over into the hall of the Union to watch and hear the lecture from big screen TVs while sitting on the floor outside of the ballroom. She told the audience that it is a great time to be involved; a great time to be a young person. The recurring theme of Davis's lecture was the necessity of a "collective resistance" shared by all people. She also repeatedly described how the public supported her activism and how she never felt alone.

"I feel that at every point, we must make it very clear that this isn't just a negro problem," Davis said. "White Americans have a responsibility to work passionately and unrelentingly for the solution of the problem of racism. The solution does not rely only upon rectifying racial discrimination, but all discrimination." I was happy to attend the lecture along with Rep Gail Finney, Wichita along with Dr. Myra Gordon, former Diversity Officer at Kansas State University and Brandon Clark of the Black Student Union.



Dr. Myra Gordon, Former Diversity Officer



Brandon Clark, Black Student Union

Pages

I would like to invite you to page for the Kansas Legislature. I have 5 places available on Tuesday, March 21st. Pages have to be 12 years of age or older. Your parents will be responsible for your transportation, meals and lodging expenses, however you do receive a \$5.00 voucher to the Capitol concession stand. If you are interested in paging please contact my assistant Dixie Sypher at 785-296-7657 or email at dixie.sypher@house.ks.gov

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is Room 451-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7657 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov . You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org

Proudly representing you in the Capitol

Sydney Carlin, 66th District