

March 10, 2017



**NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL**

# Sydney Carlin

## State Representative 66th District

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I am proud to represent you and our community in the 66th district as we work together to solve the problems that our state is facing. As your Representative, I serve on the House Appropriations Committee, and am Ranking Minority member on the Agriculture and Natural Resource Budget Committee, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I want to keep all of my constituents informed, so in addition to receiving this newsletter, please feel free to visit my website <http://www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com/>

### ***Shredding Event in Manhattan (TODAY)***

In conjunction with National Consumer Protection Week, Attorney General Derek Schmidt is hosting a shredding event in Manhattan on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm to be held at the Cico Park Swimming Pool, Wreath & Robinson Dr. Shredding will be limited to three small bags or boxes per person. For further information go to [www.InYourCornerKansas.org](http://www.InYourCornerKansas.org).

### ***Autism License Plate Bill***

Today I provided testimony for HB 2148, along with my niece Nikki Jacobs and her husband Phil, they are the founders of Autism Hope for Families. This bill would allow the revenue from sales of new Autism tags to support Autism centers in rural area of Kansas. This is one way to provide help to 1 in 68 children affected by Autism. To obtain a special tag you must apply two months prior to your current tag expiration date. The overall goal is to raise money for communities for Autism centers and help families to overcome some life challenges presented by the disease.

### ***Brownback Tax Plan to Double Alcohol & Tobacco Taxes, Dead in Senate***

On Tuesday, the Kansas Senate voted down Governor Brownback's tax plan. The tax plan included more unsustainable fixes to plug the budget deficit, like doubling the alcohol and tobacco taxes across the state. The process was long and drawn out, as the Senate divided the bill into separate parts, voting each one down in turn. We continue to work for a fair and balanced solution.

### ***International Women's Day***

Wednesday, March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day – a day to honor women across the world, recognizing their valuable contributions to our history, our present and to our futures. This day also spotlights the inequality that women face in many aspects of their lives, and emphasizes the need for all of us to work together to find solutions to the inequality. March is Women's History Month.

Happy International Women's Day!

### ***This Week on the House Floor***

This week, an elections bill passed through the House 120 votes – 0. The bill was written to provide for the special election to fill the Congressional seat in Kansas' District 4 vacated by Mike Pompeo. Pompeo was appointed CIA Director by Donald Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. It is to be held on April 11th, 2017.

A Congressional seat in Kansas has not been vacated since 1950. The rules and regulations of a special election that are not specified must be drawn. This particular bill, from the Senate (SB 43), deals with setting forth those updated rules and processes. [You can read the bill in its entirety here.](#)

### ***Senate Creates Education Budget Committee***

Following the Kansas Supreme Court ruling in the Gannon case, which deemed the school finance system both inadequate and unconstitutional, Senate President Susan Wagle created a special Senate committee to come up with a Senate position by June 30th, 2017.

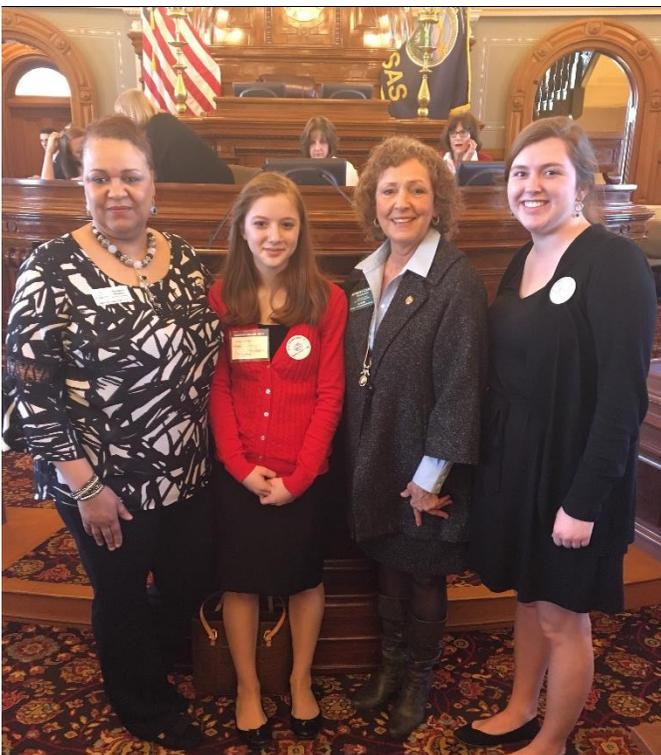
The committee is composed of 9 Republicans and 2 Democrats. The Kansas House had already established a committee to come up with a school finance formula.

### ***Governor Rumored to Be Heading to Rome***

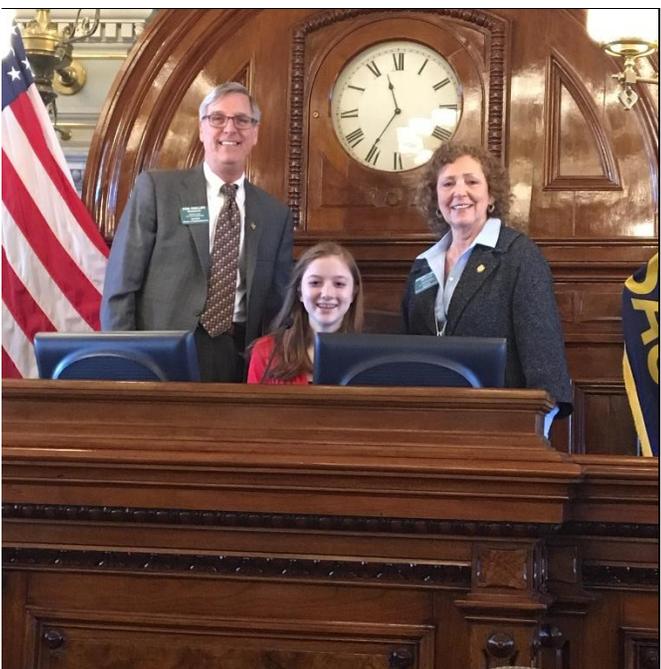
Kansas Public Radio was the first to report on Thursday that Governor Sam Brownback may be heading to Rome, Italy, in an ambassadorship doled out to him by President Donald Trump.

The timeline is unclear, and the position is not yet confirmed by Brownback’s office or any other source, but the initial report states that Brownback will likely be appointed to the position of Ambassador to the United Nations for Food and Agriculture, a position stationed in Italy.

### ***Visitors to my office***



***Boys and Girls Club Day at the Capitol***  
***(Left to Right – Front)***  
***Pamela Nealey, Director or Operations, Boys & Girls Club;***  
***Ivy Auletti – Manhattan Youth of the Year;***  
***Rep Carlin; and***  
***Tori Schuldt, Team Director, Chaperone***



***Boys and Girls Club Day at the Capitol***  
***(Left to Right – Front)***  
***Rep Tom Phillips; Ivy Auletti – Manhattan Youth of the Year;***  
***and Rep Sydney Carlin***



**Autism License Plate HB  
2148**  
Nikki and Phil Jacobs,  
Testified for the Senate  
Transportation Committee



**Deaf & Hearing Impaired  
Day at the Capitol**  
Garrett Gigot,  
Grandson of Rep Carlin



### ***Westar Rate Increase (Reminder)***

Westar has filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission requesting a \$17.4 million (1.2%) rate increase for Westar Energy’s retail electric customers. Residential customers with average monthly consumption of 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity would have an average increase of \$1.54 per month.

Westar Energy’s application indicates the increase relates to costs incurred to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements, investment related to the extended operating license for Wolf Creek and investment in distribution assets to improve reliability.

An evidentiary hearing on **Westar Energy’s request is scheduled to begin May 9, 2017, at 9am at the Commission’s Offices, 1500 Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604-4027.** The public is invited to attend.

### ***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](mailto:sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov). You can also follow the legislative session online at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org)

***Proudly representing you in the Capitol***

***Sydney Carlin, 66<sup>th</sup> District***