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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

Sydney Carlin

State Representative 66th District

Room 451-S, State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-7657

1650 Sunny Slope Lane
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
785-539-6612

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Day

We are continuing to work on our 2018-2019 Budget bill and the accompanying revenue bill to finance it. We are facing a 1.2 Billion shortfall on the most bare bones budget without finding new money for our schools.

We are making some progress in setting our priorities and eliminating unworkable solutions. In the end we must meet our financial obligations, keep our commitments to society and find a workable solution to accomplish these things. *Pray for us ----*

This Week in the House

Several bills passed through the Kansas House this week. Below is a list detailing some of these bills – to see all activity on the House floor this week, [please click here.](#)

Wildfire Relief Bill: HB 2387, An act concerning sales and compensating use tax; exemption for repairing, rebuilding or replacing certain property destroyed by wildfires

Tax: HB 2162, An act concerning sales taxation; relating to time for payment of tax

Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act: HB 2168, An act concerning rural economic development; enacting the ad astra rural jobs act

Health: SB 32, An act relating to mental health care; medical student and resident loan assistance; medical student loan agreements; practice commitment agreements; providing for agreements for the practice of psychiatry; establishing the psychiatry medical loan repayment fund and the rural health bridging psychiatry fund; concerning mental healthcare facilities

Campaign Finance: Sub HB 2223, An act concerning campaign finance reports for members of the legislature and reports by lobbyists; dealing with civil penalties for late filing of such reports

State of the Judiciary

On Wednesday, the Kansas Supreme Court justices and the Kansas Court of Appeals judges appeared at the Capitol building to give the State of the Judiciary on the House floor.

Chief Justice Lawton Nuss addressed both the House and Senate, speaking on the troubles facing the courts and their employees, raising awareness of the court's proposal to increase their budget. This is the first time the Supreme Court has appeared at the Capitol to give the State of the Judiciary since 2012. Due to prior tension with a conservative-dominated legislature, the address has been held at the Judicial Center the last few years. The new House Speaker, Ron Ryckman, re-extended the invitation to the House floor this year.

Resolution for Olathe Shooting

On Thursday, the Kansas House adopted a resolution honoring the life of Srinivas Kuchibhotla and recognizing a united community and state. The resolution condemned the recent shooting in Olathe: “These evil acts do not define us, and they will not divide us.” The surviving victims of the shooting stood in front of the House chamber to be honored as the resolution was adopted.

[Read the resolution here.](#)

Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month. It’s a time to reflect on women’s contributions to history and to the present, the inaugural holiday beginning in the United States in 1987. Join us this month in standing with and celebrating women in Kansas, across the nation, and the across the world.

[Read more about Women’s History Month here.](#)

Visitors to my office

Thank you to the followint people for stopping in to see me:

Gerry Snyder, with KSU Students attending a WEALTH presentation including:

- Ann Root
- Samantha Grieger
- Amber Berg
- Mary Conner



Pawnee Mental Health Services – Manhattan
Christine Thompson, BSN, CPS



Pawnee Mental Health Services – Manhattan
Meeqan Goins, CSP

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 . You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org

Proudly representing you in the Capitol

Sydney Carlin, 66th District