

March 30, 2017



**NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL**

# Sydney Carlin

## State Representative 66th District

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### Medicaid Expansion Bill Vetoed, Override Tabled

This is a perfect opportunity to contact Legislators that you know across the state and tell them how you feel. Two weeks ago, the Kansas House passed a Medicaid expansion bill that would help cover more than 150,000 Kansans without insurance and aid our numerous hospitals and clinics whose budgets have been slashed multiple times over the last few years.

This week, the bill hit the Senate floor with the Medicaid expansion amendment, and passed. The bill was sent to Governor Brownback, who vetoed the expansion bill on Thursday morning.

The veto brought the Medicaid expansion bill back to the House floor later Thursday morning, where a debate ensued over whether to override the veto. In the end, the bill was tabled until likely next week. This means the debate will continue and the vote will occur when it's reintroduced on the floor.

It will be a close vote on the veto override. The Kansas House needs 84 votes in order to override. If an override does happen, the bill will go back to the Senate for an override vote. The Senate needs 27 votes to override a veto.

### Flat Tax Proposal

This week Conservatives introduced a plan to put the State of Kansas under a flat tax. Under their plan the State of Kansas would implement a flat tax of 5% of income. Current tax rates for individual making less than \$15K is 2.7% and 4.6% for anyone making more.

Obviously, there will be a lengthy debate on the floor of the House but it is a new starting point.

### 2018-2019 Budget Bill

The Committee on Appropriations today passed the Substitute for HB 2364, the 2018 and 2019 budget bill. I voted against the bill due to lack of sufficient funding for essential core services, such as highways, water, KPERS, and Social Services. We hope to resolve some of those points in the Conference Committee

### Autism Bill – Senate Sub for HB 2174

HB 2148 (autism plus 4-H license plates bills) was amended into a different House bill, HB 2174. It passed the Senate today and is on its way to the Governor's office for his signature.

## *House Dems Barred from Carrying Bills*

This week it went public that the House Speaker has banned Kansas House Democrats from carrying any bills on the floor. This will last until Republican leadership can “regain” trust in Democrats after we have passed Medicaid expansion, a sturdy tax bill, and due process for teachers as floor amendments.

This means that while Democrats are still able to bring amendments to bills, we are not able to actually bring a bill in front of the House. The move is reminiscent of former Republican Leadership, and uncondusive to bipartisan lawmaking, punishing us for doing the people’s will.

It remains to be seen if current Republican Leadership will lift these restrictions before the legislative session ends.

## *This Week on the House Floor*

It was a busy week on the House floor, as we passed multiple bills. Some of these are listed below:

**HB 2319**: an act concerning abortion; relating to the women’s-right-to-know act; relating to certain physician information to be disclosed. HB 2319 seeks additional requirements which constitute a burden on both the patient and physician above and beyond what is required for any other medical procedure.

Requiring the patient to go over additional details such as the physician's hiring date and clinical privileges at nearby hospitals (and whether they have ever been revoked) is medically irrelevant, though the patient may not be informed of this. It adds confusion to the already immense amount of documentation that is required under law to be provided and confirmed by the patient 24 hours before the procedure, including descriptions of the procedure and risks, along with contact information for prenatal care and financial support information for childbirth and even child support.

On top of this, HB 2319 legislates a specific typeface, color, and point size for all of the current and new documentation required to be provided. This is extremely arbitrary and dubious from a graphic design position, as it makes it difficult for the reader to follow the structure of large documents, and has no provisions for people with dyslexia or other visual or reading impairments. Times New Roman may be a familiar typeface but has been shown to have a strong negative impact on readability for people with dyslexia (Rello, 2013).

**HB 2273**: an act concerning consumer protection; relating to the Kansas no-call act; restricting use of automatic dialing-announcing devices.

**SB 36**: an act concerning the state corporation commission; relating to motor carriers, definitions, registration.

**HB 2047**: an act concerning the office of inspector general.

**HB 2306**: an act concerning the Kansas sexually violent predator act; relating to examinations; transitional release; conditional release.

**SB 112**: an act concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to evidence; videotaping of certain felony, custodial interrogations; domestic battery; creating the crime of aggravated domestic battery; controlled substances; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; burglary; expungement; arrest records.

**H Sub for SB 40**: an act concerning human trafficking and related crimes; creating the crimes of unlawful use of communication facility, promoting travel for child exploitation, internet trading in child pornography and aggravated internet trading in child pornography; relating to training for commercial driver’s license applicants; sexual exploitation of a child; buying sexual relations; commercial sexual exploitation of a child; offender registration’ expungement of juvenile adjudications; victim compensation.

**Sub SB 74**: an act concerning persons needing assistance with cognition; relating to motor vehicle, placards, identification cards; state-issued identification cards and driver’s licenses.

**H Sub SB 101:** an act concerning crime victims; relating to protection orders; protection from abuse act; protection from stalking act; sexual assault evidence collection examinations and parental notification; the crime victim's compensation board and claims for compensation.

**SB 124:** an act concerning the care of children; relating to the Kansas family law code; child custody, residency and parenting time; evidence of domestic abuse; relating to the revised Kansas code for the care of children; rules of evidence; admissibility of certain test results.

### Visitors to my office



Pages on March 27  
(Left to Right)  
Paris Mikinski,  
Meredith Graves, Rep  
Carlin, Jillian Harkin  
and Sophia Jeffers



Ann Root, Constituent  
from Manhattan and 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*