



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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K-12 Education

In October of 2017, the Kansas Supreme Court declared SB 19, the school funding plan passed last session, unconstitutional. They gave the Legislature until April 30, 2018 to submit an adequate and equitable plan to finance schools.

Major items to be addressed include but are not limited to: we fixed the \$80 million error by removing the component that would have required local option to be counted to BSPP (base state aide per pupil) which I was sure it was not going to be constitutional and that is why I voted against the previous education bill. While I am not certain we will satisfy the court, I will support the current bill. The increases in revenue have all moved up to address critical needs in the state. Both the House and Senate have added money back into the bill for higher education. The state collected more revenue than was expected, allowing this to happen.

State Budget

All decisions for the budget will come out of the conference committees. Social Services, Corrections and the Judicial Branch are all expected to receive enhanced monies.

Domestic Violence/Firearms

House Bill 2145 expanded the criteria for prohibiting the possession of firearms by certain individuals. The bill included those who have been convicted of domestic violence, stalking, and violence toward children prohibited from obtaining a firearm for at least five years. The bill was approved by Governor Jeff Colyer on April 20, 2018, and is the first state law to define “criminal use of weapons” to include persons convicted of domestic violence.

Senior Corps Resolution

A resolution was introduced and passed designating April 27 – May 4, 2018 as Senior Corps Week.

More than 3,900 seniors in Kansas contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 7,100 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 490 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers renovate homes, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, provide transportation to medical appointments, serve our veterans and military, deliver meals, help at food pantries, offer free tax preparation services and provide other services through more than 740 groups across Kansas. In a recent report, the Kansas Association of Senior Corps Directors reported an average of over one million hours in volunteer service is provided each year by Senior Corps Volunteers in these three programs. Not only do our state and our communities benefit from Senior Corps Volunteers, but, over the past two decades there has been research that indicates volunteering provides individual health benefits, in addition to social ones, to the volunteers.

At a time when fiscal restraint is a must, National Service is a wise investment of taxpayer dollars and is good for Kansans. Please join with me in thanking these Senior Corps Volunteers who represent these three programs that are truly making a difference in the state of Kansas.

Today I have with me representatives from these two of the three Senior Corps programs: Foster Grandparents – Willie Jones; RSVP Volunteers – Patricia Petty & Linda Doub; and Lori Bishop; Executive Director of the Flint Hills Volunteer Center/RSVP program and President of the Kansas Association of Senior Corps Directors.



Kansas State Library Information

Student Success Skills Center helps students develop skills that are vital for success in high school, college, and in life. This online resource from the State Library of Kansas has interactive tutorials on multi-tasking, time management, and information literacy. Skills featured for new high school students cover study and classroom skills, finding good sources, and how to cite work and avoid plagiarism. College students receive tutorials on organizational strategies, using campus resources, and personal skills like money management, healthy habits, and understanding insurance, credit and taxes. Go to <https://kslib.info/LEL> and click on the tile for *Student Success Skills*.

If the page above asks for a Kansas Library eCard number, you may get one at any library in Kansas. Most people will be automatically recognized as being in Kansas and will not need this step. Easy registration and self-supplied password is necessary in order to save your work and revisit any practice tests or tutorials. Questions: kslc@ks.gov or 785-296-3296.

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I both 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, or www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org



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