



## **Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative**

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### **Legislative Update - Week #10**

**March 18 - March 22, 2019**

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#### Kansas Works - Hot Jobs Listings

Attached [here](#) is the weekly Hot Jobs List from Kansas Works for the Manhattan area. Statewide listings may be found [here](#).

#### Legislative Forum - Saturday, March 30th at 7:30 am

It was great to see all those who joined us for the February Legislative Coffee sponsored by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. I urge all of you to save the date for the next meeting: Saturday, March 30th at 7:30 am in the Sunset Zoo Nature Exploration Center, 2333 Oak Street.

#### Voice Your Opinion

If you have concerns about any bills or legislative activity, do not hesitate to contact myself and/or the respective leadership. Once a bill has passed through the legislature, it is not law until the Governor signs the bill. Contact information for respective leaders:

GOVERNOR

[Laura Kelly](#)

785.368.8500



HOUSE

[Ron Ryckman](#)

Speaker of the House

785.296.2302



[Daniel Hawkins](#)

House Majority Leader

785.296.7662



SENATE

[Susan Wagle](#)

Senate President

785.296.2419



[Jeff Longbine](#)

Senate Vice President

785.296.7361



### HB 2066 - Medicaid Expansion Passes the House

Wednesday brought hours of debate to the House chamber as a bipartisan group of 41 Democrats and 28 Republicans voted to overcome the conservative leadership's roadblocks to Medicaid expansion. Throughout the session, committee chairs in both chambers refused hearings on the Governor's bills ([HB 2102](#) and [SB 54](#)) to expand Medicaid, gaining 90% federal matching funds, while House and Senate leadership blocked debate from the floor.

The bipartisan coalition of Representatives stripped original language from [HB 2066](#) and replaced it with "Expanding KanCare" legislation; proving some legislators can find common ground and [listen to over 70% of Kansans who support Medicaid expansion](#). This bill contains language similar to that passed with [bipartisan support in both chambers during the 2017 legislative session](#), only to be [vetoed by Governor Brownback](#). Expansion will bring billions in federal tax dollars back in-state to help over 100,000 Kansans, who make 133% or less of the federal poverty level (\$16,612 annually). Those Kansans who would gain Medicaid health coverage include the poor, disabled, children, veterans, and those within the [ACA gap](#) for insurance subsidy qualification. [Research shows Medicaid expansion brings](#) increased access to health care, mental health benefits, and protection from personal bankruptcy due to catastrophic medical situations. [Expansion brings additional economic impacts for rural and community hospitals and job creation](#). These indirect economic benefits [help mitigate the 10% state share of costs for the expansion](#).

The new [HB 2066](#) now goes to the Senate for action. To date, no committee action is anticipated given the lack of hearings on [SB 54](#) by the [Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare](#). Senate President Susan Wagle (R-Wichita) could bring HB 2066 up for debate and vote at any time. If the leadership fails to act, Senate rules require 24 votes to move a bill from committee to the consent calendar and 27 votes to force a floor vote.

### Previous HB 2066 - Requirements Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

This bill invoked passionate views from many in the Manhattan area. It was this bill that was stripped of its language to provide a way forward on Medicaid expansion in Kansas. I have reached out to the sponsors of the original bill, and will provide any updates on future action that I receive.

### HB 2173 - Commercial Industrial Hemp Act

Late Wednesday, the [House Agriculture Committee](#) made additional amendments to [HB 2173](#). These changes were required to meet the federal guidelines for hemp farming through the 2018 Farm Bill. The goal of these changes is to reduce start up costs and increase profitability for a new commodity crop that can be grown by Kansas farmers. The bill is currently

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on General Orders for the House awaiting a vote to be called by the leadership. A similar bill, [HB 2167](#), was recommended for passage by the [Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee](#) on Friday.

### SB 124 - Prohibiting the Kansas Corporation Commission from authorizing certain charges for electrical service

After months of debate in the Kansas statehouse, the Clean Energy Business Council presented to the Senate Utilities committee on Thursday that Evergy had agreed to file a new tariff with the KCC to request that Westar customers with solar installations prior to October 1, 2018, and KCP&L customers with installations prior to December 20, 2018, are grandfathered into the old rate and not subject to the mandatory demand charges.

“We appreciate Evergy agreeing to grandfather these customers into the old rate so solar users aren’t impacted by prohibitive rate hikes. We’re now focused on how we can make sure Kansas policies enable future solar customers to affordably access the technology for their homes. Our agreement with Evergy included their commitment to collaborate in the coming months to find reasonable solutions that will allow the industry to grow and we’re looking forward to those discussions,” said Dorothy Barnett, executive director of the Clean Energy Business Council.

Vice Chairman of Senate Utilities Mike Petersen (R-Wichita) told Barnett in committee, “I want to thank you and the industry for getting together and figuring out how to help these folks that made their investments (in solar) and coming to a reasonable solution.”

### K-12 Education Funding and the Gannon Court Deadline

With an April 30th deadline for the Attorney General's Office to file the State of Kansas' response to the Kansas Supreme Court's [Gannon decision](#) on public education funding, the legislature is still embroiled in partisan theatrics. Last week the [Senate Select Committee on Finance](#) passed [SB 142](#), a school funding bill proposed by Governor Kelly that is thought to meet the Court's requirements. This week, the [House K-12 Budget Committee](#), stacked with ultra-conservatives, voted down the Senate bill despite broad bi-partisan support. Instead, the budget committee continued to play partisan games with [HB 2395](#) and [SB 16](#), which contain no new education funding and are almost guaranteed to meet objections by the Kansas Supreme Court. I remain a staunch supporter of fully funded K-12 education, and will continue to vote only for solutions supported by the Kansas Constitution.

### House Democratic Caucus Briefed by Acting Secretary Howard

The Democratic House Caucus had a presentation from Laura Howard, Acting Secretary Kansas Department for Children and Families. Secretary Howard emphasized issues that the

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foster care system is facing including the recent increase in number of children in foster care. Including the need for more social workers and services to families before children are removed from the home.

### SB 22 - Brownback Tax Plan 2.0 Update

Senate Republicans passed [SB 22](#) on party lines last week. Kansas law gives Governor Kelly until March 29th to veto the bill, otherwise it becomes law without her signature. The multinational corporate tax breaks included within this bill will affect many agencies and programs. Stay tuned...

### Bills of Interest

My office has received a lot of constituent communication regarding various bills, the status of some of them are listed below:

[HCR 5009](#) - Concurrent Resolution making application to the US Congress to call a Convention of States. The [House Federal and State Affairs Committee](#) voted to recommend the resolution to the full House on March 20th. It awaits the Speaker's decision to bring it for Floor action.

[HB 2031](#) - Act concerning police and fireman's pension and retirement system. Awaiting Senate floor vote for passage after the [Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions](#) recommended its passage as amended.

[HB 2244](#) - Protection from prosecution for authorized use of CBD oils. The [House Judiciary Committee](#) recommended its passage to the House floor as amended on March 20th. It awaits the Speaker's decision to bring it for Floor action.

The remainder of session will be spent voting on Senate bills and finalizing the budget.

My committee's schedules and pending issues may be found below:

[House Appropriations Committee](#)

[House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget](#)

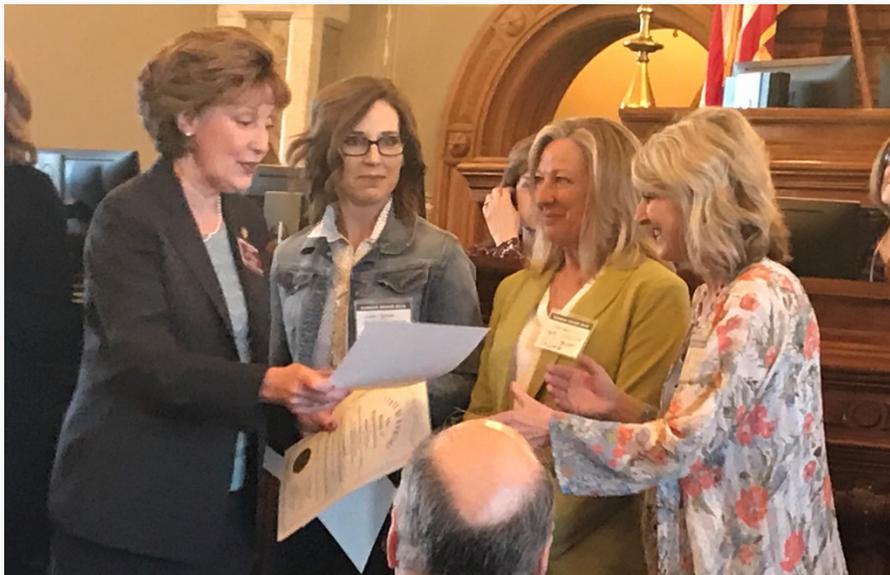
[House Agriculture Committee](#)

### Office Visits

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Representative Carlin and Paris Souza, the 2019 Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year-Manhattan. The Youth of the Year Award is chosen after review of numerous factors: Character and Leadership, Lifestyle, and Personal Brand. Ms. Souza will be graduating from Manhattan High this year, and hopes to attend Northwestern University. Congratulations Paris!



Representative Barbara Dietrich (R-Topeka) presents the 2019 Teach of the Year awards. Second from the left, Dedra Braxmeyer - Manhattan High Schools math Teach of the Year.

### **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 our community and the state government. Please contact me with your comments and questions.

My office address is Room 451-S, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612.

You can call my office at (785) 296-7657, or the legislative hotline (800) 432-3924 to leave a message.

[Email](mailto:sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov) at [sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov](mailto:sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov)

Please follow [my legislative activity](#) or the [entire session](#).

**Thank you!**

A stylized, cursive signature of Sydney Carlin in black ink on a white background.

**Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative**



