



Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative

Room 451-S, State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612
785.296.7657

1650 Sunny Slope Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502
785.539.6612

Legislative Update - Week #11

March 25 - March 27, 2019

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Kansas Works - Hot Jobs Listings

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

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

There will be a Legislative Forum sponsored by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, March 30th at 7:30 am in the Sunset Zoo Nature Exploration Center, 2333 Oak Street. I hope to see many of you there.

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 selected leaders follows:

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



Governor

[Laura Kelly](#)

785.368.8500



HB 2066 - Medicaid Expansion Stalled in Senate

Last week, a bipartisan coalition of Representatives amended [HB 2066](#) on the House floor, 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](#). However, [HB 2066](#) remains stuck across the Capitol, where Senate President Susan Wagle has refused to bring the bill up for debate. Anyone concerned about Medicaid expansion in Kansas should contact the President of the Senate and Senators, urge them to bring this important legislation up for a vote.

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 improves](#) access to health care, mental health benefits, and protection from personal bankruptcy due to medical costs. [Expansion brings additional economic support for rural and community hospitals and creates jobs](#). These indirect economic benefits [help pay for the 10% state-funded costs of expansion](#).

HB 2412 - Requirements Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Many in the Manhattan area expressed strong views on both sides of this question. It was HB 2066 that was stripped of its language to provide a way forward on Medicaid expansion in Kansas. A replacement bill, [HB 2412](#), was introduced on Tuesday, March 26th, and referred to the [Health and Human Services Committee](#).

HB 2173 - Commercial Industrial Hemp Act

The House passed [HB 2173](#) with overwhelming bipartisan support, 119-5, on Tuesday, March 26th. The Senate has passed a slightly different version of this legislation. Next week the [House](#) and [Senate](#) agriculture committees will meet in conference to work out the differences. As the ranking Democrat on the House side, I will be a part of this joint conference committee, and will continue my push to expand opportunities for industrial hemp farming in Kansas. This is important legislation that could boost rural economies, provide a new cash commodity for our hard working farm families, and create jobs in processing this multi-use crop.

K-12 Education Funding and the Gannon Deadline

April 30th remains the 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. This week the House spent hours debating amendments and underlying bills for [SB 16](#) and [HB 2395](#) before agreeing to conference with the Senate Education Committee to work out a final proposal. I continue to stress my support solely for a constitutionally approved funding process that leaves partisan politics out of our state's education funding policy.

HB 2274 - Requiring Notification to Patients that Effects of a RU-486 may be Reversible

Tuesday, hours were spent on the House Floor debating [HB 2274](#), which requires physicians to provide information to patients that the effects of RU-486 may be reversible. I was vocal in this debate based on evidence from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists that this remains an unproven claim. In my opinion, and that of many doctors testifying before the House Health and Human Services Committee, it endangers women's health and puts physicians in an ethically grey area. [Forcing doctors to provide questionable, unproven, or false information to patients is something no state should ever do](#). Such conversations should be between a woman and her doctor and should be done voluntarily or not at all. I cannot vote to support anything less than that.

HB 2326 - Recognizing Concealed Firearm Licenses from Other States

[HB 2326](#) originally dealt with whether the state of Kansas should recognize the concealed carry permits of other states. After hours of debate and amendments, House Republicans proposed and passed an amendment lowering the legal age for a concealed carry permit from 21 to 18. It also allows the Attorney General to recognize permits from other states that have training requirements equal to or greater than those of Kansas. I was disappointed this act did nothing to stop concealed

weapons on the campuses of public state universities. I received many emails from concerned parents and students who do not like attending class when there are guns in the room. This viewpoint is one I understand, but the House majority voted against amendments limiting such action.

SB 22 - Governor Kelly Vetoes a Return to the Brownback Tax Plan

House and Senate Republicans passed [SB 22](#) on party line votes in the past couple of weeks. On Monday, March 25th, Governor Kelly issued the first veto of her term. Her entire veto statement may be read [here](#).

I applaud the Governor in her refusal to give hundreds of millions of dollars in multinational corporate tax cuts, when the state of Kansas has many unfunded obligations here at home. Instead of paying for corporate jets, we can be funding education, reducing the IDD waitlist for HCBS waivers, expanding Medicaid, and repairing and building our roads, which suffered from eight years of neglect under the Brownback administration.

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. This resolution was supposed to have been debated on [Monday, March 25th](#). However, Speaker Ryckman pulled it from the debate schedule on Monday afternoon.

[HB 2031](#) - Act concerning police and fireman's pension and retirement system. The [Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions](#) recommended its passage as amended. The Senate passed the amended version on March 27th, 39-0. It now awaits a House decision to agree or send to conference committee.

[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. The entire House voted On Wednesday, 89-35 to approve this bill. It now awaits action from the Senate.

The remainder of session will be spent in [joint conference committees](#), where House and Senate bills are discussed, blended, and voted on again by both chambers before going to the Governor for signature or veto.

Office Visits



On Wednesday, March 27th, it was my pleasure to host [Reverend Caela Simmons-Wood](#) from the First Congregational United Church of Christ, as guest chaplain for the House. Reverend Simmons-Wood spoke of the need for reflection prior to action, and for legislators to remember those they have been elected to represent "faithfully, with humility, and honor." Video archive of her prayer may be found [here](#), starting at 16:34.

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

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

Thank you!

Sydney Carlin

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