

July 2019

Rep. Sydney Carlin 2019 Legislative Update

Dear Neighbor,

The 2019 Legislative Session has ended, and we welcomed Laura Kelly, a Democratic governor. Hers was a solid, responsible budget that starts the state economy on the slow healing process caused by the Brownback tax experiment. This was the shortest session of my tenure, leaving 13 days unspent. Our Budget reduced reliance on Highway funds, restored \$166 Million to KPERS, gave a 2.5% pay increase to all state employees, (the first in 9 years), and increased support for community mental health centers. Senate President, Susan Wagle, (R) prevented a Senate vote on Medicaid Expansion, which passed the house overwhelmingly. The Legislature passed a school finance plan approved by the Kansas Supreme Court. For a summary of 2019 Legislation, type in this link:
<http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications.html>

I continue to work toward commonsense solutions and policies to try to move Kansas in the best direction. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have. It is an honor to represent our community.

Sincerely,

Sydney Carlin

Representative, 66th District

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**Proudly Serving
House District 66**

You can reach me at home: 785-539-6612

between now and January 13, 2020

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Medicaid Expansion

I supported the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas for people making between 6,000 and 16,612.00 per year who are without health insurance. For the past 5 years we studied the effects of inadequate health care on our citizens – causing death and devastating illnesses to go untreated – and our community resources. Multiple polls show that more than 70% of Kansans support expansion for these 150,000 people that fall into this insurance gap. We have lost several hospitals, that means medical services, doctors and nurses also leave.

During the veto session several colleagues and I held up the budget trying to force the Senate to vote on Medicaid Expansion. We voted the budget down twice before some of the moderate coalition succumbed to pressure and voted to pass the budget. I did not. We do have an excellent budget which I helped develop everyday working on the Appropriations Committee. I am pleased and supportive of the budget outcome.

Education Funding

The Governor presented an education funding plan to address the requirement set forth by the Kansas Supreme Court, which would increase funding by \$90 million a year for the next four years. The bill also included future increases would be tied to the consumer price index (CPI). The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the funding plan is adequate but has retained jurisdiction of the case to assure that funding continues.

Other Achievements

HB2223 requires evaluation of Economic Development Programs and Tax Incentives by Post Audit and the Department of Commerce every three years. The effort will help determine effectiveness of programs. A data base will disclose programs which include income tax credits and local property tax exemptions and other Dept of Commerce programs. The Department must provide data on incentives providing more than \$50,000 and make the information available to the public.

Sen Sub for HB2167: Commercial Industrial Hemp Program allows for cultivation and production of industrial hemp for commercial purposes. All hemp processors must register annually with the Dept of Ag. The rules and regulations will follow the USDA recommendations as set forth in the U.S. Farm Bill of 2019. Several facilities will be constructed around Kansas to process the new crop creating a new economic engine.

SB28 Claire & Lola's Law creates, and amends law related to possession of certain cannabidiol (CBD) treatment preparations. The bill prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from initiating child removal proceedings or child protection actions or proceedings solely on the parent's or child's possession or use of a CBD treatment preparation in accordance with the affirmative defense established in the bill. It amends the crime of unlawful possession if the possessor has a definitive medical condition that can be helped through CBD use. A letter from a Doctor must always be in his/her possession.

Attempt to Return to Brownback Tax Cuts Vetoed

House and Senate Republicans passed SB22 on party line votes to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on multinational corporate tax cuts. Democrats also like tax cuts, but this is not the time to offer Brownback's plan once again. Instead we opted to support education, Higher Education (\$33 Million), reduce the waitlist, rebuild roads and highways and give our employees a pay increase. The Governor agreed and vetoed the bill. We were able to gather enough support to sustain her veto.

Governor Kelly has created a new task force to study and make recommendation for future tax policy. Leading the task force will be former President of the Kansas Senate Steve Morris, (R) Hugoton. Former Senator appointed to the task force Janis Lee, (D), Kensington, was the Ranking Democrat on Senate Tax Committee for many years. I look forward to seeing the balance of the task force makeup and to hearing about their discussions and recommendations. It is important that we have a broad and fair tax policy. I enjoyed serving on tax committee several years ago, before I moved to Appropriations.