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Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative

300 SW 10th Street
Room 451-S
Topeka, KS 66612
785.296.7657

1650 Sunnyslope Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502
785.539.6612

2020 Legislative Update - Week #6

February 17 - February 21, 2020

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Page Information

If you, or someone you know, are interested in serving as a page for the 2020 Legislative Session, please contact [me](#). I always enjoy helping kids learn more about our state government and its processes. Current dates available are: March 17th, March 25th, and April 1st. If these dates do not work with school calendars and you are interested we can attempt to book alternative dates.

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The Kansas Legislature is currently gridlocked on two issues: Medicaid expansion and the Constitutional Amendment on abortion. This week we have worked mostly non-controversial bills on the floor.

[Kelly-Denning Medicaid Expansion Deal in Jeopardy](#)

On Thursday, February 20th, the Senate [Health and Public Welfare Committee](#) began attempts to amend [SB 252](#), the Kelly-Denning Bill to Expand Medicaid in Kansas. Committee [Chairman Suellentrop](#) (R-Wichita) has said there are still amendments to debate, and claimed it was too early to submit the bill to the entire Senate. If SB 252 does not get a vote prior to Thursday (February 27th), or is “blessed” by Senate leadership the bill will die due to procedural rules.

[Constitutional Amendment](#)

This week there was no action in the House on the Constitutional Amendment regarding abortion, [HCR 5019](#). We expect action be taken in the coming weeks.

[Executive Reorganization Orders](#)

Three of Governor Laura Kelly’s [Executive Reorganization Orders](#) (EROs) were passed out of committee this past week. Unfortunately, both [ERO 44](#) (creating the Kansas department of Human Services) and [ERO 46](#) (establishing the Kansas Energy Office) were passed out of committee unfavorably. [ERO 45](#), however, which transfers certain powers, duties, and functions of state employee insurance programs to the jurisdiction of the Department of Administration, was reported favorably. The EROs fall under Special Orders of Business on the House Calendar, where they will remain until the Speaker assigns a date for them to be worked on the floor. If no legislative action is taken on these resolutions, the EROs automatically go into effect.

[Turnaround Next Week](#)

Next week marks halfway point for the 2020 Kansas legislative session. This is “Turnaround” day, where active bills must be sent to the opposite chamber. Any bills that are sent turned are dead, and will have to be reintroduced next year. The Legislature is traditionally on the floor all day for several days.

[Civil Discourse and Civility Training](#)

About 40 members of the Kansas Legislature have been meeting after regular hours to learn about each other and practice civil discourse. These state leaders are committed to good government in Kansas and are working toward improving communication and collegiality in the Kansas Capitol and filter around the entire state. The first meeting was held on January 17th on a day off during an ice storm, showing the members’ interest in civility in the work they are doing.

One way to bring everyone into the action, is by choosing a word of the week. The first word is “**Vision.**” There will be various posters, videos, and programs that will pick up the word of the week, in hopes of bringing Kansans from everywhere into the action. Posters will welcome visitors as they enter the Capitol. Members are invited to speak in the chamber when the word of the week brings special resonance or awareness in their life and work.

You can follow our work on Twitter [@kscivility](#).

[House Votes](#)

[HB 2524](#) “Updating motor carrier laws and regulation of motor carriers by the state corporation commission.”

— Passed 118-0

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[HB 2448](#) “Changing penalties for crimes related to motor vehicles.” — **Passed 98-25** (I voted Nay)

[HB 2454](#) “Self-storage unit rentals; sales and towing of property for nonpayment of rent or abandonment; contractual value of property.” — **Passed 114-9** (I Voted Nay)

[HB 2429](#) “Adding a public defender to the Kansas criminal justice reform commission.” — **Passed 121-1** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2432](#) “Creating the Kansas pesticide waste disposal program and allowing up to \$50,000 to be transferred annually from the Kansas agricultural remediation fund to a new Kansas pesticide waste disposal fund.” — **Passed 122-0**

[HB 2447](#) “Changing how two-way electronic audio-visual communication is used in courts.” — **Passed 83-39** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2449](#) “Changing the requirements for board of indigents' defense services appointments.” — **Passed 99-23** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2451](#) “Amending Kansas department of agriculture division of animal health license, permit and registration renewal deadlines.” — **Passed 122-0**

[HB 2501](#) “Allowing salvage vehicle pools to apply for ownership documents for vehicles that are disclaimed by insurance companies.” — **Passed 119-3** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2595](#) “Eliminating the 30-day delay before offering state surplus property for sale to the general public.” — **Passed 118-3-1** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2515](#) “Creating the Kansas promise scholarship program.” — **Passed 116-6** (I Voted Yea)

[HB 2500](#) “Amending the Kansas power of attorney act regarding the form of a power of attorney and the duties of third parties relying and acting on a power of attorney.” — **Passed 122-0**

[HB 2521](#) “Enacting the revised uniform athlete agents act.” — **Passed 122-0**

[Remembering Representative Greg Lewis](#)

Former State Representative Greg Lewis of St. John, Kansas passed away on Monday morning. Representative Lewis resigned in February of 2019 to focus on his health after being diagnosed with brain cancer. Funeral services are being held today (February 21st) in Stafford. Greg Lewis was a devoted public servant to Kansas and its people; he will be missed.

[Local Visitors](#)

Every week various groups visit the Capitol, and it's great when local people from Manhattan are among them.

This week we had advocates from Pawnee Mental Health and Big Lakes Developmental Center working for legislation to shrink the IDD waitlist.



More photos of my visit to Bluemont Elementary reading to students. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there!



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On Thursday (Feb. 20th) I had two young women page for me on the House floor. Shayleigha and Geornaia it was great spending part of the day with you both. I hope you each learned a lot.

[MESI Needs](#)

The [Manhattan Emergency Shelter](#) has updated its "Needs List." They are running short on canned foods and boxed meals, dish soap, and men's and women's winter coats. Items may be dropped off at 416 South 4th Street in Manhattan.

[Employment Opportunities](#)

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

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STATEWIDE JOB FAIR

Location
Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan

APRIL 2, 2020 | 3-6PM

[Scholarship Opportunity](#)

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is currently accepting applications for their annual scholarships for Kansans applying to 4-year universities, junior colleges, and vocational, technical, and trade schools. More information may be found [here](#).

[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 Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

You may reach 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

Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative



Our mailing address is:

Sydney Carlin

Kansas House of Representatives

300 SW 10th Street

Suite 451-S

Topeka, KS 66612

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