

News from the Capitol



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2021 Legislative Update Week #4

January 25 - January 29, 2020

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Early Learning Caucus

There are multiple caucuses for legislators to attend outside of committee assignments. They help to provide updates and new information from subject experts. This week the Early Learning Caucus hosted a presentation by Tabatha Rosproy. She is a Pre-K educator from Winfield, Kansas, who won the Kansas Teacher of the Year award in 2020 and went on to earning the honor of the US Teacher of the Year. Rosproy was the first early learning educator to receive this recognition.

This informative session brought highlighted emerging issues and offered us ways to think about Early Childhood Education (ECE). For example, only 26% of 4-year-olds receive state funded Pre-K education in Kansas. ECE provides an opportunity to help parents and educators understands a child's learning style and offers resources to access educational services for children.

Preschool educators and childcare professionals provide essential services. This year with COVID19 closures and parents working from home we appreciate even more early child educators. THANK YOU for all you do for the next generation of Kansans.

Committee Work

Appropriations

[Appropriations Committee](#) is well over half of my work. This week we had hearings on [HB 2101](#) and [HB 2195](#). We also voted on the first few Agency Budgets.

HB 2101 is especially important to me. It would continue to dedicate certain revenues from the Kansas Lottery to the University Engineering Initiative Act. K-State, KU, and Wichita State receive money for scholarships, facilities and faculty to ensure Kansas businesses can have well-qualified engineering professionals in the state. This profession represents nearly 1/3 of the statewide payroll and tax base. It has been so successful that other universities would like to also participate. Contact members of the Appropriations Committee if you if you support continuing these three strong engineering programs.

[Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget](#)

As Ranking Minority Member on the [Ag Budget Committee](#), I help review proposed budgets for fee funded state agencies and those who receive federal funds through grants and revenue sharing programs. This week we had hearings and took action on the State Bank Commission, the Department of Credit Unions, and the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce and the Department of Commerce budget. Commerce budget contains funds for the Creative Arts, Public Broadcasting, and the Strong Military Bases Program among many others. We are also preparing to move Tourism back into the Commerce budget.

[Agriculture](#)

This week we [.Agriculture Committee](#) I am also the Ranking Minority Member on the [HB 2102](#) .heard two bills that were lost last session due to COVID shortening the session updates Kansas law for [HB 2103](#) .updates the egg repackaging requirements for retailers [HB 2155](#) We also held hearings on .a pesticide waste disposal program and fund regarding Kansas Department of Health and Environment's response operations for water We will be working this bill on Monday .and soil pollution release, discharge, and escape (requirements for [HB 2244](#) Next week we will also hold hearings on .of next week .(amending the Kansas storage tank act) [SB 27](#) disposal of industrial hemp) and

[Around The Dome](#)

[Medicaid Expansion Plan](#)

This week Governor Kelly held a press conference to unveil her new plan for Medicaid Expansion. It will finance the Expansion of healthcare for working Kansans who earn too much to have Medicaid coverage and not enough to purchase health care through the Affordable Care Act with revenue from legalizing Medical Cannabis in Kansas. We are one of only 3 states who have yet to pass some form of legal medical cannabis in the United States. Thus, Kansas allows money to leech out to other states. Both issues have support

from a majority of Kansans in numerous polls. I will share the bill with you for your review once it is published.

[SB 22](#)

This week, the [Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation](#) passed [SB 22](#). This bill is a revival of the Brownback tax cuts, which decimated tax revenues and led to cutting budgets for school, killed our highways program and forced us to cut every program in the state. It gives tax relief to giant multinational corporations which will cause necessary programs to suffer cuts again. I believe tax cuts should be for everyone, not just for corporations.

[Final Action](#)

The House passed several bills on the floor this week. The Republican Leadership asked, and we supported “Emergency Final Action” to force immediate vote for passage, rather than waiting the normal 24 hours. I fully supported.

[HB 2071](#) to increase the penalties for stalking a minor.

[HB 2090](#) creates a process for filling local and state government spots on a temporary basis if the elected official is called up or away for military/reserve/nation guard service and deployment.

[HB 2082](#) waives time restrictions for cases for children who suffered from sexual and violent abuse.

[HB 2029](#) which allows all crimes with a domestic violence designation to be considered a prior conviction under domestic battery.

All of these passed with over 100 Representatives voting in favor, and some were unanimous. I voted “YES” on all.

[Press Conference](#)

The Democratic Caucus is holding a press conference on Tuesday, February 9th at 1:00pm to discuss our priorities for the remainder of the legislative session. You may watch it live, or recorded, [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

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