



Legislative UPDATE

News & Information for the People of the 29th District

March 22, 2019



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REGULAR SESSION NEARLY OVER

We are nearing the end of regular session. This week was the last week for non-exempt committees to meet and consider bills. Next Wednesday is the deadline for non-exempt bills to get out of their second chamber. As such, there should be an influx of work on the Senate floor next week.

With little time left in session, I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have about bills or committee hearings. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 785-296-7387 or by email at oletha29th@aol.com. Or, stop by my legislative office located in room 135-E of the Statehouse.

BUDGET PASSES THE SENATE

A budget bill with an ending balance of \$525 million in the negative by FY 2022 passed the Senate Thursday on a vote of 21-18. Senate Bill 75 originally contained the recommendations of Governor Kelly, but many of her items were stripped out, additional expenditures were added, and the tax giveaway for giant multinational corporations was incorporated.

Senator Jim Denning (D-Overland Park) amended the budget to include a provision attempting to make it more difficult to pass Medicaid expansion by requiring legislative approval for expenditures by state agencies for the purpose of Medicaid expansion. After talking with the Revisor's office, there's uncertainty as to whether it actually changes anything in current law. Legislative approval of a provision to expand Medicaid would still meet the requirements of the law. All 11 Senate Democrats voted against the amendment.

With the amendment, the budget bill must be reprinted. At 308 pages long at an estimated 4 cents per page and a minimum of 300 copies, it's not an inexpensive addition.

Governor Kelly proposed a stable budget that will provide priorities for the people of Kansas – funding our public schools, expanding Medicaid, adding employees to the Department of Children and Families to resolve the foster care crisis, and rewarding state employees – including corrections officers and court employees – with a much-needed pay increase. Her budget had a positive ending balance of \$323.4 million by FY 2022. The governor has urged restraint, and appropriately so. I stand with the governor and voted no on the bill.

HOUSE APPROVES MEDICAID EXPANSION

A bipartisan coalition of House members took historic action Wednesday to pass Medicaid Expansion. Some have even called it [“political bravery.”](#)

House Democrats offered an amendment to replace the contents of House Bill 2066, a controversial bill to expand the practice authority for registered nurses, with the Medicaid expansion plan endorsed by Governor Kelly. Though the amendment was ruled not germane by the Rules Chair, a bipartisan coalition came together to overrule the Chair and finally have a real debate on expansion on the floor. The bill passed final action Thursday morning on a vote of 69-54. It now comes to the Senate for consideration.

The calendar for consideration of items is set by Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning. His actions the past few weeks have made it clear that he has no interest in even debating Medicaid expansion. It will be challenge for the Senate to act on it.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month! Here are a few more notable Kansas women:

- Topeka native **Ms. Carolyn Wims-Campbell** became the first African American elected to the State Board of Education in 2008. She retired from her seat in 2016 after serving two, four-year terms. Prior to serving on the State Board, she served on the USD 501 school board for three terms. She is a former vice president of the Kansas Association of School Boards and past president of the National Federation Urban Suburban School Districts. She continues working during the Legislative session in the Office of Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley. She is also very active as a volunteer in her community.

- Senator **Oletha Faust-Goudeau** made history when she was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 2004. She became the first African American Woman to represent the 84th district. Then, in 2008, she was elected as the first African American woman to ever serve in the Kansas Senate in Kansas history. In 2019, she became the first African American woman to serve as Assistant Minority Leader. Faust-Goudeau works hard protecting rights and services for seniors, the disabled, and children.
- **Joan Wagnon** was the first woman elected as mayor of Topeka. She served from 1997 to 2001. Prior to that, she served six terms as a Kansas state representative for the 55th district. She left her seat in 1994 to run for the Democratic nomination for Kansas Governor; she finished second out of five candidates in the primary. She also served as Secretary of the Kansas Department of Revenue under Governors Sebelius and Parkinson. Wagnon then served as chair of the Kansas Democratic Party from 2011 to 2015. She has held many other leadership positions, including National Treasurer of the Girl Scouts of America.

Promoting Physical Therapy at the Capitol

Senator Faust-Goudeau met with the Physical Therapy Association and Wichita State University physical therapy students. They were at the Capitol promoting physical therapy.



The Senator met with the Physical Therapy Association and physical therapy students from Wichita State University. Pictured are Austin Mettling, Kim Hoang, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Paula Weishaar, Brooks Taylor and Ricardo Nava.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Every day 91,728 kids in Kansas leave school with nowhere to go. They risk being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe. Their mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.



Senator Faust-Goudeau was honored to present Natalie Downing with the Military Youth of the Year Award at the awards ceremony on March 20. Natalie also received a check for \$5,000.00.



Senator Faust-Goudeau also introduced Zaria Garnes who was nominated for the Youth of the Year Award. Every day 91,728 kids in Kansas leave school with nowhere to go. They risk being unsupervised, unguided and unsafe. Their mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

RESOLUTION THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE



Senator Faust-Goudeau also honored with a Resolution on the Senate floor Hailey Colborn, who is the reigning Miss Teenage USA. Hailey was trained in classical ballet for 14 years. While a student, she started the mentorship program “Self-Posi” which she uses to travel to middle schools to talk to girls about the importance of self-love. She graduated from Wichita Northwest High School in 2018 where she was Valedictorian, a Governors Scholar, A KU Alum Association Scholar, a Kansas Honor Scholar and recipient of both the Brian Bergkamp Service award the Principal Leadership award. Hailey was accepted to Yale University but was one of 799 students in the world to be granted early admission to Princeton University where she is currently a student.



This week Senator Faust-Goudeau honored Nico Hernandez in the Senate Chamber with a Resolution. Nico is the current International Boxing Federation’s National and World Champion with a record of 7 wins and no losses. He is an avid supporter of his hometown of Wichita and an active runner with a history as a cross country athlete while a student at Wichita North High School. He also won a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games. He will serve as the Grand Marshall for the inaugural year of the Wichita Chisolm Trail Marathon and will be fighting on May 18th at Century II in Wichita.

Pictured back row, left to right, Lacey Cruse, Brandon Findley, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Nico Hernandez, Senate President Susan Wagle. Front row, left to right, Nichole Salas, Chello Hernandez, Lewis Hernandez, Michael Langston, Rose Langston, Tate Langston, Amanda Langston and Parker Langston.

Water Day at the Capitol

The Capitol hosted Water Day on March 21. A few of the different organizations that attended were the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Public Water Supply Section, Water One of Johnson County and the Milford Lake Watershed. The presented the public with a lot of interesting facts.

Ten Reasons to Drink TAP water:

- 1,500 water bottles are consumed in the U.S. every second
- 36 oz of water is needed to produce one 12 oz plastic water bottle
- Bottling water produces 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly
- 50% of bottled water is repackaged tap water
- 1 Billion Dollars worth of plastic is dumped in U.S. landfills every year
- Americans spend over 11 Billion Dollars a year on bottled water
- 17 Million barrels of oil are consumed in yearly production of water bills
- 1 Billion water bottles are shipped across the U.S. weekly
- Enough to run 1 Million cars for a year
- Tap water is cheap, safe and eco-friendly (1 penny = 2 gallons of water)

IMPORTANT STATE PHONE NUMBERS

Here is a list of numbers I often receive requests for during the Legislative Session. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Attorney General (888) 428-8436	Driver's License Bureau (785) 296-3963	KanCare Consumer Assistance (866) 305-5147
Child Abuse Hotline (800) 922-5330	Fraud Hotline (800) 432-3919	Kansas Jobs (785) 235-5627
Consumer Protection (800) 432-2310	KPERS (888) 275-5737	Kansas Lottery (785) 296-5700
Crime Tip Hotline (800) 572-7463	Governor's Office (877) 579-6757	Kansas State Library (800) 432-3924
Crime Victim Referral (800) 828-9745	Highway Conditions (800) 585-7623	Legislative Hotline (800) 432-3924
Department on Aging (800) 432-3535	Housing Hotline (800) 752-4422	School Safety Hotline (877) 626-8203
		Social Security

(800) 772-1213

DCF

(785) 296-1491

Suicide Prevention
Hotline

(800) 273-8255

Tax Refund Status Info

(800) 894-0318

Taxpayer Assistance

(785) 368-8222

Unclaimed Property

(800) 432-0386

Vital Statistics

(Birth Certificates)

(785) 296-1400

Victims of Human
Trafficking

(888) 373-7888