



Legislative **U**PDATE

February 15, 2019

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THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

We are officially one month into session. This week marked the last week for bill introductions. With a few exceptions, as of Friday at 5 p.m., no more bills can be introduced for the 2019 session. The deadline for bills to pass out of their house of origin, also known as turnaround day, is February 28.

This week the Senate took action on several non-controversial bills along with a resolution related to the Reproductive Health Act recently passed in New York. I voted no.

We also learned this week more about the mess that Brownback left behind. Governor Kelly declared a crisis in our Corrections facilities. She also announced Thursday that a portion of DCF grants were terminated and an RFP process will begin. Finally, a story broke about a multi-million dollar no-bid contract entered into with the assistance of Brownback's 2014 campaign manager.

It is truly an honor to serve you. 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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILLS INTRODUCED



Senators Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita) and Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) announced Wednesday during a press conference that they have introduced two bills that aim to provide greater protections to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. The press conference coincided with the annual advocacy day of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and

Domestic Violence. Faust-Goudeau's bill increases penalties for domestic battery by requiring offenders to undergo an assessment conducted by a certified batterer intervention program and to follow the recommendations provided by that program. Current law leaves it at the discretion of the Court. The bill also adds that committing an act of domestic battery in front of a child is to be considered endangering a child, which is a class A misdemeanor.

Sykes' bill is co-sponsored by a total of 26 Senators. It prohibits landlords or property management companies from denying applicants or evicting tenants on the basis of being a victim of domestic violence.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CRIME VICTIMS

Kansas Attorney General's Office
Victims Services Division 800-828-9745
Online www.ag.ks.gov

Kansas Bureau of Investigation 800-KS-CRIME
Online www.kbi.ks.gov

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
Abuse in adult care facilities, hospitals 800-842-0078
Online www.kdads.ks.gov

Kansas Department for Children & Families
Kansas Protection Report Center (24 hrs.) 800-922-5330
Online www.dcf.ks.gov

Kansas Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services 866-404-6732
Prisoner Review Board 785-296-3469
Online www.doc.ks.gov

Kansas Children's Service League 877-530-5275
Online www.kcsl.org

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Crisis Hotline 888-END-ABUSE 888-363-2287
Online www.kcsdv.org

Kansas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Statewide Office 785-625-3049
Online www.kansascasa.org

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Last year, the Legislature passed a law establishing a Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force, responsible for studying Kansas' transportation system and making recommendations for improving Kansas roads and highways.

On Wednesday, Governor Kelly highlighted projects that can move forward if the balanced budget she proposed passes the Legislature. The Governor criticized the passage of reckless tax plans, like the one we saw last week, and underscored the importance of balancing the budget in order to be able to reinvest in important infrastructure projects.

The four projects planned to move forward are: Work on US-54 highway in Seward County and US-169 highway in Anderson County would start in the fall, and work on US-281 highway in Russell County and US-50 highway in Lyon County would start in the spring of 2020.

These are projects from the 21 total projects delayed as the result of Brownback's failed policies. Brownback raided more than \$2 billion from the highway fund to pay for reckless tax cuts. Governor Kelly's budget begins restoring that funding.

THE MESS BROWNBACK LEFT BEHIND

Governor Kelly has officially been in office one month now, and the longer she and her team dig into state agencies, the more of mess we realize Brownback left behind; these are the direct result of reckless tax policies. This week we learned the following:

- **NO BID CONTRACTS** Kansas agencies have more than 7,300 no-bid contracts worth \$428 million, which has more than doubled in the last five years. One of the no-bid contracts awarded was to CGI by the Kansas Department of Revenue for more than \$100 million, despite CGI's history of failing to fulfill agreements in other states. It led to a layoff of 56 state employees. The contract was supposed to result in a tax system to go live on October 1, 2018, but [it has yet to do so](#). New Revenue Secretary Mark Beshears said the department is using pre-CGI

methods for processing 2018 state income tax returns, and they are evaluating their next steps. These no-bid contracts should have never happened.

- **CORRECTIONS CRISIS** Governor Kelly declared an emergency at the El Dorado Correctional Facility citing 95 vacancies. This means guards will have to work 12-hour shifts. Statewide, there are more than 400 vacancies within the state correctional facilities. New Corrections Secretary, Roger Werholtz, reported last week that lack of staffing, lack of training, double bunking, lack of treatment for prisoners, and poor decisions on prisoner moves (like putting too many young prisoners in one location) resulted in problems like rioting and staff resigning. Although Governor Kelly has recommended a \$3 million increase in funding, but this is another example of the long road to recovery that we are on following Brownback's policies.
- **FOSTER CARE CRISIS** Governor Kelly announced Thursday that the Department of Children and Families has terminated contracts for family preservation and is rebidding them for foster care and family preservation, in response to the reports of lost children, children sleeping in contractors' offices, and even children's deaths. Additionally, Saint Francis Ministries, KVC Kansas, TFI, and Cornerstone of Care were notified of the state's intent to reopen negotiations. (Read more here.)

ANOTHER HOSPITAL CLOSURE

The refusal to expand Medicaid in Kansas has led to yet another hospital closure, this time in Oswego. Oswego Community Hospital along with Oswego Community Clinic and the Chetopa Community Clinic announced they would be closing. In 2018, the hospital in Ft. Scott closed its doors, also citing failure to expand Medicaid. And, we know there are many other rural hospitals in jeopardy. We must ensure all Kansans have access to healthcare; we must expand Medicaid.



I met with DeVona Roble and Heidi Moore of the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association on Tuesday.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, a time devoted to recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. This week we honor a few notable Kansans:

- **Langston Hughes** is an American poet who lived with his grandma in Lawrence until he was 13. His poetry focused heavily on the Harlem community and his work has been translated into 12 languages. He is still actively celebrated among the Lawrence community.
- **Gwendolyn Brooks**, born in Topeka, Kansas, was the first African American poet to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1950. In 1968, she was named poet laureate of Illinois. Brooks is best known for her poetic descriptions of urban life for black Americans. She is also a cousin of Ms. Carolyn Wims-Campbell, first African American to serve on the Kansas State Board of Education.
- **Lutie Lytle**, a Kansan and Topeka High School graduate, was the first African American woman admitted to the Kansas State bar. When she was hired as a faculty member at Central Tennessee University, some news reports referred to her as the only black female law instructor in the world. In 1935, Lytle returned to Topeka to address a large audience at St. John's A.M.E. Church and advocate for racially integrated schools.

SENATE BILL 143

I introduced Senate Bill 143 which is "AN ACT concerning drivers' licenses; relating to eligibility for restricted driving privileges; qualifications; voluntary surrender; amending K.S.A. 8-298 and K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 8-2110 and repealing the existing sections.

SMART JUSTICE REFORM DAY



I met with members of the ACLU at the Capitol.

Meet my Intern



I would like you to meet my intern, Wesley Collins. Wesley is a student at Washburn University with a double major in International Business and Marketing. He is the CEO/Founder of a drone service company called AVA Energy Expeditions. After graduation, he plans to work within global markets by providing drone and volunteer services to developing countries in Africa, India and South America. He is currently teaching himself Hebrew.

It's an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

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

Crime Victim Referral
(800) 828-9745

(888) 275-5737

Child Abuse Hotline
(800) 922-5330

Department on Aging
(800) 432-3535

Governor's Office
(877) 579-6757

Consumer Protection
(800) 432-2310

Driver's License Bureau
(785) 296-3963

Highway Conditions
(800) 585-7623

Crime Tip Hotline
(800) 572-7463

Fraud Hotline
(800) 432-3919

Housing Hotline
(800) 752-4422

KanCare Consumer
Assistance
(866) 305-5147

Kansas Jobs
(785) 235-5627
Kansas Lottery
(785) 296-5700

Kansas State Library
(800) 432-3924

Legislative Hotline
(800) 432-3924

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