



# Legislative **U**PDATE

News & Information for the People of the 29<sup>th</sup> District

**March 15, 2019**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- This week at the capitol
- Mega tax bill heads to Governor Kelly
- School funding bill heads to the House
- Medicaid expansion blocked again
- Bills of interest
- Women's history month
- Important State Phone Numbers

## **THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL**

The Senate took action on six bills on the Senate floor. We also confirmed Governor Kelly's appointment of Lee Norman as Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment. Finally, the Senate agreed to the changes made to the tax bill benefiting giant multinational corporations, sending it to the Governor.

Committees continued to hold hearings on bills, including several on bills introduced by members of the Democratic caucus. They include, Sheldon's Law, which requires mandatory reporting by clergy; Veterans' First! Medical Cannabis; and, unemployment for contracted school bus drivers.

Next Friday, March 22, is the deadline for non-exempt bills to be 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.

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 [oletha@aol.com](mailto:oletha@aol.com). Or, stop by my legislative office located in room 135-E of the Statehouse.

## **MEGA TAX BILL HEADS TO GOVERNOR KELLY**

A tax bill with a fiscal note of nearly half a billion dollars was approved on a vote of 24-16 this week. Senate Bill 22 includes tax benefits for giant multinational corporations as well as changes to internet sales tax and a minor adjustment to food sales tax, which were added as amendments by the House.

I voted no on the original bill and I voted no on the motion to concur with the House changes. This bill moves Kansas back onto a path similar to that of Brownback's. Kansans deserve policies that move us forward and allow schools to be adequately and

fairly funded, critical state services to be restored, roads and bridges to be built, and so on.

It is likely Governor Kelly will veto the bill. She has made it clear that no changes in tax policy should occur until more time is given for the budget to stabilize.

## **SCHOOL FUNDING BILL HEADS TO THE HOUSE**

Governor Kelly's school finance bill passed the Senate this week on a vote of 32-8. I voted yes. The plan was built based on recommendations from the Kansas Department of Education and were approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. It is a good-faith effort to invest adequately in our schools while also maintaining the stability of the state's budget.

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION DEBATE BLOCKED AGAIN**

Seven Republicans, led by Majority Leader Jim Denning, on the Senate Ways & Means committee this week voted to strip out funding that had been included in Governor's Kelly's budget recommendation. Stripping the funding out creates yet another barrier to having a full debate on Medicaid expansion on the Senate floor.

The refusal to expand Medicaid has resulted in the forfeiture of more than \$3 billion in federal tax dollars paid by Kansans. There is no way to recoup these dollars if we do not implement a Kansas solution.

**Alley  
Billinger  
Braun  
Denning  
Goddard  
Kerschen  
Suellentrop**

STRIPPED MEDICAID EXPANSION  
FROM THE BUDGET

Unlike tax cuts, which remove dollars from the state treasury in hopes that new jobs and revenues will be created, Medicaid expansion goes to work in our state on day one by paying salaries, funding purchase of materials, and growing sales in a variety of areas as new dollars flow into the state and into the state treasury. Additionally, Medicaid expansion is estimated to create thousands of new, good-paying jobs and help rural hospitals and clinics keep their doors open.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST**

Here are a few bills that may be of interest to you:

- **HOUSING PROTECTIONS** Senate Bill 150, introduced by Senate Democrat Dinah Sykes of Lenexa and co-sponsored by 26 Senators, prohibits landlords or property management companies from denying applicants or evicting tenants on the basis of being a victim of domestic violence. The bill passed unanimously.
- **ELECTRIC RATE STUDY** Senate Bill 69 authorizes the study of retail rates of Kansas electric public utilities. It's a two-part study that aims to look for solutions

on how to make rates better for consumers. Recommendations are to be made by January 8, 2020. The bill passed 38-1 with one present and passing.

- **MANDATORY REPORTING** Senate Bill 218, also known as Sheldon's Law, requires clergy to report certain abuse and neglect of children, had a hearing this week in Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs. The bill was introduced by Senator Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City). I support it.
- **MEDICAL CANNABIS** Senate Bill 113, also known as the Veterans First! Medical Cannabis Act, had hearings Thursday and Friday in Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare. The bipartisan bill allows the use of medical cannabis to manage pain for established medical conditions and gives veterans exclusive access to dispensaries the first 60 days the law is in effect.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT FOR BUS DRIVERS** Senate Bill 38, introduced by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita), authorizes contracted school bus drivers to apply for unemployment during the summer. The Senate Committee on Commerce held a hearing on the bill Friday.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

- **Joan Finney** served as the 42<sup>nd</sup> governor of Kansas from 1991-1995. Originally from Topeka, KS, Finney got her political start serving on the staff of U.S. Senator Frank Carlson. She served as the first female Kansas State Treasurer and the first female governor. Finney defeated Mike Hayden which led her to be the first woman to defeat an incumbent governor in a general election in the United States.
- **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** represented the State of Kansas in the U.S. Senate from 1978-1997. Some know her since her father was the Governor of Kansas from 1933-1937 and the Republican nominee for president in 1936. Kassebaum was the first woman ever elected to a full term in the Senate without her husband previously serving in Congress. Kassebaum endorsed Laura Kelly in her 2018 gubernatorial campaign.
- **Nellie Cline** was the first woman to present oral arguments before the Kansas Supreme Court. After the Suffrage Amendment, Cline was among the first four women to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives. Cline is noted for introducing and passing the Threshermen's Lien Law, which gave protection to farm labor in Kansas.



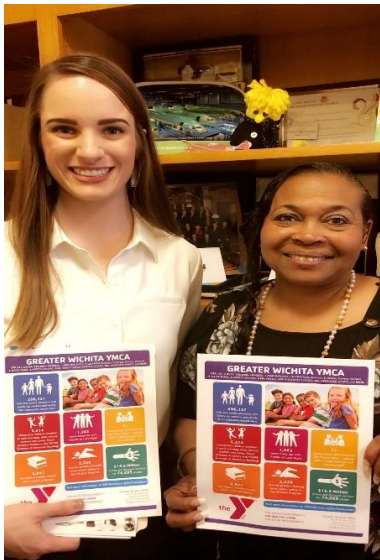
## THIS WEEK IN MY OFFICE

### PAGES FOR THE DAY



We had two students come and page for us at the Capitol and they got their pictures taken with the Governor. Pictured (L to R) Olivia Rose, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Governor Kelly and Jordan Bond.

## YMCA



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with Kelly Goodson of the YMCA in Wichita.

Did you know that:

5,314 elementary children enrolled in early learning, after school and summer day camp?

1,363 teens hung out with friends at Late Night at the YMCA?

71 young people graduated our Job Prep program – gaining skills to help them get and stay employed?

4,841 enrolled in middle school after school programs?

2,229 second graders learned basic water safety in the SPLASH program?

296,157 kids and adults served in nine family rec centers and nearly 200 community-based sites?

\$15.5 million in free and discount services for 74,099

people?

## **March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.**



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with members of the Southwest Kansas Problem Gambling Task Force at the Capitol. Pathological gambling affects 1 to 2% of the population and 4 to 6% of those that gamble. 2 to 6% would be anticipated to seek treatment each year (378 to 1134) but the current average is 141. Problem gamblers generate significant social costs including gambling debt, substance abuse, mental illness, crime and job loss.

Kansas Problem Gambling Prevention:  
<http://www.kspreventioncollaborative.org> or 1-800-522-4700

## **Mental Health Awareness**

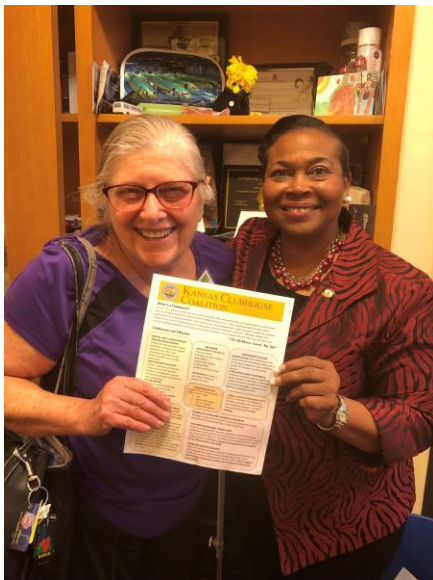


The Senator met with Darla Denton of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The suicide rate for children in Kansas is 16.3 deaths per 100,000 which is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the United States. In the Kansas City metro area, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24. High school completion for Kansas students with emotional disabilities is 23% compared to 92% for general education students. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.





Senator Faust-Goudeau and members of the Mental Health Association met in her office for Mental Health Awareness Day at the Capitol.



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with her good friend, Sam of the Kansas Clubhouse Coalition.



Senator Faust-Goudeau visited with Kendra Burgess, Public Policy Coordinator for The Whole Person which connects people with disabilities to the resources they need.

## 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	Governor's Office (877) 579-6757	(800) 772-1213
Child Abuse Hotline (800) 922-5330	Highway Conditions (800) 585-7623	DCF (785) 296-1491
Consumer Protection (800) 432-2310	Housing Hotline (800) 752-4422	Suicide Prevention Hotline (800) 273-8255
Crime Tip Hotline (800) 572-7463	KanCare Consumer Assistance (866) 305-5147	Tax Refund Status Info (800) 894-0318
Crime Victim Referral (800) 828-9745	Kansas Jobs (785) 235-5627	Taxpayer Assistance (785) 368-8222
Department on Aging (800) 432-3535	Kansas Lottery (785) 296-5700	Unclaimed Property (800) 432-0386
Driver's License Bureau (785) 296-3963	Kansas State Library (800) 432-3924	Vital Statistics (Birth Certificates) (785) 296-1400
Fraud Hotline (800) 432-3919	Legislative Hotline (800) 432-3924	Victims of Human Trafficking (888) 373-7888
KPERS (888) 275-5737	School Safety Hotline (877) 626-8203 Social Security	