



# Legislative UPDATE

News & Information for the People of the 20<sup>th</sup> District

**February 28, 2020**



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## **ONE MONTH LEFT**

There is just one month left of regular session, but still plenty of work to be done. The Senate spent three days on the floor this week working nearly 50 pieces of legislation, all of which received the constitutional majority vote. They now move on the House for consideration.

Legislators will take a short break and return to work on Wednesday, March 4. The Senate will then begin to take up committee work on bills passed by the House. Exempt Senate committees will also continue to work on Senate bills.

With little time left in the session, I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions you have about bills or committee meetings. Feel free to contact me at 785-296-7387 or by email at [oletha29th@aol.com](mailto:oletha29th@aol.com). Or, stop by my legislative office located in room 135-E of the Statehouse.

## **WHAT WE HAVEN'T DONE**

Although we took action on nearly 50 bills this week, a host of important bills that directly impact hardworking Kansans remain unworked by the Senate.

There has been no movement on Medicaid expansion. In fact, Senator Gene Suellentrop, who is the chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, issued a statement Monday indicating that the committee will only pass a bill on Medicaid expansion when the constitutional amendment on abortion passes the House.

Additionally, no action has been taken on bills that would end surprise healthcare billing; reduce the cost of insulin; add domestic violence protections; impose fines on unlicensed childcare providers; provide unemployment for school bus drivers; or extend unemployment benefits to 26 weeks.

These are all bills addressing real issues faced by real Kansans in our districts. Addressing these issues will move Kansas forward. Although attempts were made to amend some of these into bills considered on the Senate floors, all attempts failed.

Republican leaders have demonstrated they have no respect for the legislative process and feel more strongly to make demands for their own political gains than to do what is right for Kansans.

## **MENTAL HEALTH PARITY**

Senator Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City) made a motion Tuesday to pull his mental health parity bill out of committee for consideration on the Senate floor. His motion failed 11-29. The bill remains in committee.

Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death overall in Kansas. [Senate Bill 249](#) would help all Kansans. It is a bipartisan bill introduced to ensure that both mental health issues and substance abuse issues are treated in the same manner as physical health issues as required under the federal mental parity act.

The bill remains in the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance. It hasn't received a hearing or had any additional action taken.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST**

Here are a few bills of interest that were debated and voted on in the Senate this week:

- **AT-RISK WEIGHTING** [SB 271](#) extends the sunset on high-density at-risk weighting from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2023. This weighting provides additional funding for schools with high populations of at-risk students. The bill passed 40-0.
- **SUSPENDS DRIVERS LICENSES** [SB 275](#), introduced by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita) exempts a person found guilty of driving with a suspended license for failure to comply with a traffic citation from receiving an additional 90-day suspension. It also amends current law to remove certain qualifications for applying for a restricted license. The bill passed 39-0.
- **SPORTS WAGERING** [SB 283](#) legalizes sports gambling in Kansas and eliminates the prohibition on internet gaming. Although I support sports wagering and iLottery (internet gaming platform), **I could not support this bill.** It includes provisions that favor the casinos over the state of Kansas. The state should be in full control of the revenue stream, and these extensions of gaming should benefit

all stakeholders – the citizens, the state of Kansas, and the operators. The bill passed 23-15.

- **PROPERTY TAX LID** [SB 294](#) eliminates the local property tax lid that originally passed in 2015. It replaces it with requirements for cities and counties to send notices to all taxpayers and hold a public hearing, if they intend to raise property taxes in the coming year. The bill passed 39-0.
- **RAW MILK** [SB 308](#) allows for the on-farm retail sale of unpasteurized milk and milk products and establishes requirements that each container of raw milk is clearly marked with, “This product contains raw milk that is not pasteurized.” Senator Barbara Bollier offered an [amendment](#) requiring on-farm retailers to post a sign indicating raw milk may contain organisms that cause foodborne illness in children, pregnant women, older adults, and those with weak immune systems. Her amendment failed 15-23. I supported it. The underlying bill passed 37-3.
- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** [SB 371](#) requires notices with resources of help for victims of human trafficking to be prominently posted a host of public places. The bill passed 39-0.
- **OBGYN INCENTIVES** [SB 381](#) creates a loan assistance program through the University of Kansas Medical Center for students seeking to pursue the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. The goal of the program is to encourage future-OBGYNs to establish practices in rural areas. However, doctors who complete the program are penalized in the event that they establish abortion clinics or perform, induce, or attempt to perform or induce an abortion. They then have to pay back their loan assistance. The bill passed 25-15. I voted against it. I do not support provisions seeking to compromise women’s health.
- **FOSTER CARE STUDENTS** [SB 384](#) establishes that the Department of Children and Families prepare an annual academic report card on educational outcome data regarding foster care students. The bill passed 39-0.
- **TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS** [SB 404](#) creates law outlining procedures to allow a woman who has become pregnant as a result of rape can petition to terminate the parental rights of the rapist. The bill passed 40-0.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, a time devoted to celebrating and recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

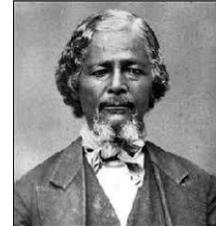
- **Andrew “Rube” Foster** founded the Negro National League in 1920, and eventually wanting to integrate into baseball’s National and American Leagues. His co-creator was J.L. “Wilkie” Wilkerson, an accomplished pitcher who, although white, became a major influence and one of the most respected personalities in black baseball history. Together, they helped make stars out of players like Jackie Robinson, Judi Johnson, and Satchel Paige.



- **Henry Perry**, known as the “Father of Kansas City barbecue.” In 1907, Perry created and became the champion of barbecue culture. His barbecue style was so popular that everyone of all races enjoyed the crossover. Today, his restaurant is known as Arthur Bryant’s.



- **Benjamin “Pap” Singleton**, a former Tennessee slave played an instrumental role in the Exoduster Movement, substantially increasing the black migration to Kansas. He encouraged fellow former slaves to move to Kansas, where they could purchase land and establish better lives. Between 1877 and 1879, nearly 300 African Americans followed him to Kansas.



### **SPEEA (The Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace)**



SPEEA represents more than 22,000 engineering, technical and professional workers at the Boeing Company, Spirit AeroSystems and Triumph Composite Systems in Washington, Kansas, Oregon, Utah and California. They support spending Kansas tax dollars to contract for the purchase, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of a public building or a public work entered in to by a state agency.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Every 65 seconds, someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.
- Every 9 seconds, someone in the United States sustains a brain injury.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. accounting for 30% of newly diagnosed cancers.
- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- Every 73 seconds, a sexual assault occurs in the U.S.
- There are 250 babies born every minute.

## 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	Social Security(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	