



News from the Capitol

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Week #4 Newsletter

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Page Information

If you have a student that would like to be a page for the Legislature, please contact my office at 785.296.7657, or via [email](#). Dates are available in February and March. To serve as a page you must be 12 years of age or older.

General Myers at the Capitol

On Wednesday, February 6th, leaders from universities and technical colleges from the across state provided testimony to the House Appropriations Committee. I was especially please to see the President of Kansas State University, General Richard B. Myers (USAF - Ret.) appear before the committee. His testimony included information on: the expansion of K-State and its various colleges and satellite campuses, its ratings by the various review boards, and its economic impacts. In conjunction with the Governor's budget director, I will work hard to fulfill as much of the higher education budget requests as possible.

Brownback Tax Plan Returns

On Thursday, February 7th, the Senate voted 26-14 to pass Senate Bill 22. This bill provides an estimated \$154 million in tax breaks to giant multinational corporations. Initial estimates put its cost at Kansas \$191 million, but actual figures could go much higher. This would take more money out of Kansas and local economies. This is a repeat of the failed Brownback tax plan, which was repealed less than two years ago. House Democrats reject any legislation that doesn't put Kansas on a path to fiscal responsibility and harms hardworking Kansans. We have only just begun to stabilize our economy after the failed,

ideologically driven tax plan and cannot afford to go backwards.

Non-Discrimination Bill - [HB2130](#)

On Monday, February 4th, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers introduced a proposal to ban discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. [HB 2130](#) would add sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class in state law- prohibiting on-the-job discrimination. It also broadens the scope to include housing and public accommodations. Currently, the House bill has 36 sponsors and the Senate version has 17 co-sponsors. In addition to keeping with civil rights, it also prevents businesses from blacklisting Kansas, because of our previous discriminatory laws.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius issued an executive order to protect LGBTQ Kansans, which was rescinded under Governor Brownback. Governor Laura Kelly reinstated the executive order on her first day in office. If the legislation passes, these protections will become statutes in Kansas law, and not simply be rescinded by future governors' orders.

Celebrating Native American Day at the Capitol

Since 2013, the first Wednesday of every February is designated as Native American Legislative Day at the Capitol. Tribal leaders were present for House action on bills pertaining to tribal issues: recognition of tribal court judgments, and a bill in Federal and State Affairs Committee to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.



In honor of Native American Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 6th, Rep. Ponka-We Victors, Wichita, brought guests from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

This Week on the Floor

This week, the House worked several bills on the floor, all passed through the chamber.

They are as follows:

[HB 2001](#): Extends the sunset date for remediation linked deposit loan program, the remediation reimbursement program, and the Kansas agricultural remediation fund. It also amends the annual assessment rates.

[HB 2038](#): Revokes spousal inheritance rights upon divorce.

[HB 2039](#): Extends recognition of tribal court judgments pursuant to Supreme Court rules.

[HB 2033](#): Provides sales tax authority for Dickinson, Russell, Finney, and Thomas counties pursuant to public vote.

[HB 2034](#): Enacts support the decision-making agreements act to provide a statutory

framework for adults who want decision-making assistance.

Upcoming Testimony

The House Agriculture Committee will hear testimony this week on commercial, industrial hemp production. [Current agenda](#) sets briefings by the Legislative Research Department staff on Tuesday, February 12th, and concerned testimony to follow on February 13th-14th. This involves [HB2173](#), which I strongly support.

The 2018 Farm Bill enacted by the US Congress in December, amended the Controlled Substances Act making commercial hemp farming legal. US Senators Roberts and Moran have supported this policy for its economic benefits to Kansas farmers and its economy. This bill adjusts state laws passed last year concerning security and reporting requirements to fall inline with new federal standards.

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 Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612.

You can call 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!

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