



News from the Capitol

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Week #5 Newsletter

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Kansas Works - Hot Jobs Listings

Attached [here](#) is the weekly Hot Jobs List from KansasWorks for the Manhattan area. Statewide listings may be found [here](#).

Kansas Works - Hot Jobs Listings

Attached [here](#) is the weekly Hot Jobs List from KansasWorks for the Manhattan area. Statewide listings may be found [here](#).

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.

Happy Birthday Kansas State University

First, Saturday is the 156th birthday for Kansas State University. Signed into law on February 16, 1863, it was the first operational land grant university in the country. K-State was also the first public institution of higher learning in the state of Kansas. After all these years, it is still going strong under the leadership of President Myers and all the faculty, staff, and students. GO CATS!

KPERs Amortization and COLAs

Thursday saw spirited debate on the House floor for [HB 2197](#). This bill is part of Governor Kelly's budget proposal, and involves re-amortizing the State's unfunded pension liability (similar to refinancing your home mortgage). This process **does not affect current retirees**. It would help the state recover from years of under-funding from the failed Brownback tax and budget policies, and allow us to fund immediate priorities like schools, public universities, and correcting the state of emergencies in our prisons.

I voted to support this bill, along with an amendment brought forth by Representative Pittman to give current KPERs recipients a cost of living adjustment (COLA). Unfortunately, both the amendment and the bill failed to gain Republican support to pass.

Budget Committee Action - Commerce

As ranking member of this Budget Committee, I am pleased that we recommended to [House Appropriations Committee](#) three changes that directly impact Manhattan and the surrounding areas:

First, involves adding money to the [Creative Arts Industries Commission](#) budget. This had support from arts groups across the state. These funds will be used to pull down federal National Endowment for the Arts and other grants, which will bring a huge return on our investment.

Second, was nearly doubling funding for the Strong Military Bases Program, part of the Governor's Military Council. This funding works to ensure the voice of Kansas is heard in Washington DC as decisions are made on allocation of military resources, or reallocation of bases around the country. The next round of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) is scheduled for 2023, and Kansas needs to start gearing up for this now.

Third, \$350,000 for commercialization of university research at our public universities.

I was a vocal proponent for these measures in both my budget and appropriations committees, and will continue to help push them through the House floor.

All budget recommendations may be found [here](#).

Commercial Industrial Hemp Farming HB 2173

Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee held hearings on [HB 2173](#). This bill would reform existing law on commercial industrial hemp farming, bringing it inline with new federal regulations after the 2018 US Farm Bill removed industrial hemp from the list of controlled substances. Both of our US Senators have supported this move, and have described it as a

potential boom for Kansas agriculture.

The committee will continue hearings on the bill next week, with final action in committee on Wednesday, February 20th.

Safe Access Act - Medical Marijuana [HB 2303](#)

Wednesday, also saw the introduction and reading of [HB 2303](#) on the House floor. The Safe Access Act would allow for medical marijuana to be legal in the state of Kansas. Advocates have been pushing for years to get this bill introduced. I know this is an important issue for many of my constituents. It has been referred to the [House Health and Human Services Committee](#), where hopefully it will be granted a hearing. States around Kansas have passed laws decriminalizing cannabis for medical or recreational usage. It is time for Kansas to have a serious and thoughtful debate on this issue. I look forward to seeing final language on this bill if/when it reaches the House floor for a vote.

Upcoming Legislation

This coming week will be a busy one for me. The House Appropriations committee will be meeting all five days, hearing among other things budget reports for the state's public universities, including Kansas State. The full agenda may be found [here](#).

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee will be discussing budgets for the Citizens' Utility Rate Payer Board, the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, and the Kansas Water Office. Its full agenda may be found [here](#).

The Agriculture Committee will be discussing issues about the State Fair Board and continuing its action on commercial hemp farming. The full agenda may be found [here](#).

As always, if you have comments, concerns, or support for any activity before the House or my committees do not hesitate to contact my office.

Office Visits



The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence posted their display through the Statehouse on Wednesday, February 13th. It honored 56 Kansans who lost their lives to domestic and sexual violence.



Representative Carlin with Kaitlin Clark, Editor in Chief of the Mentor; Lauren Walradt, Vice President of FFA; Ayden Boyles, FFA President; and Elissa Mullinix, Ag & Science Educator - All from Manhattan High School.



John Lard, Lacy Pitts - K-State Student Body Vice-President, Linda Morse, and Representative Carlin.

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!

A stylized, cursive signature of Sydney Carlin in black ink, set against a white rectangular background.

Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative



