



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 14, 2024

House Social Services Budget Committee Suggests Increases to Medicaid Codes

Yesterday, the House Social Services Budget Committee, chaired by Representative Les Mason (R-McPherson) met. The committee made recommended changes to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Health. The committee saw the following recommendations:

- \$45.2 million all funds, \$17.9 million state general funds and raise all Medicaid hospital outpatient hospital reimbursement by 30 percent
- \$2 million SGF bridge funding for hospitals operating as Rural Emergency Hospitals but not eligible for the status
- \$33.9 all funds, and \$13.6 SGF to increase physician reimbursement fees by 15 percent
- Delete \$715 million, including \$61.8 million SGF, and all fund deletions of \$735.6 million from federal funds and 41.1 million from special revenue funds in funding for Governor's budget proposal for Medicaid expansion

Other adjustments included:

- Centralized State Laboratory Courier Services Funding of \$1.1 million
- Oral Health Kansas \$4.8 million all funds, \$1.9 million state general funds
- Tiny K Alliance infant services \$2.0 million state general funds
- Local Health Department investments of \$843,493
- \$12 million for workforce solutions for benefit verifications in FY 2025
- Community Care Network of Kansas adding \$3 million
- \$1.8 million for family services targeted case management for Rainbows United in FY 2025
- \$3.8 million to increase to \$65/hour from \$45/hour for children receiving autism services
- \$550,000 for Project Access
- \$1.9 million all funds to eliminate 5 percent discount on any hospice

The budget will now go before the full House Appropriations committee and The Senate sub-committee will have a hearing on KDHE on Thursday.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Begins Vaccination Related Hearings

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Renee Erickson (R-Wichita) held a hearing on [Senate Bill 390](#). The legislation enacts the conscientious right to refuse act to prohibit discrimination against individuals to refuse medical care and creating a civil cause of action based on such discrimination; repealing the authority of the secretary of health and environment to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties.

The committee heard from proponents: Senator Mark Steffan (R-Hutchinson), William Mize of Kansans for Health Freedom, Michelle Eagleman, Kathy Brown, Jeri Enegren, Debbie Mize, and Connie Newcome.

And opponents including: Heather Braum of Kansas Action for Children, Rand Bowman of Local Health Departments, Timothy Graham with Kansas National Education Association, Geovannie Gone with Immunize Kansas, William Wilk with Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Rev. Dr. Annie Ricker of Kansas Interfaith Action, and Kimberly Martin, Kansas State Nurses Organization. KHA also submitted testimony on the bill.

The committee will meet again tomorrow to hold hearing on [Senate Bill 391](#), enacting the constitutional right to health freedom act to regulate the activities of the secretary of health and environment related to public health functions; repealing statutes relating to the secretary's authority to quarantine individuals and impose association penalties.

House Health and Human Services Holds Hearings

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), held hearings on two bills.

[House Bill 2777](#), which would restrict the use of body cameras by State Fire Marshal inspectors in medical care settings. KHA provided [testimony](#). The committee discussed possible amendments.

[House Bill 2749](#), requiring medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion performed at such facility or by such provider to the Kansas Department Secretary of Health and Environment.

The committee will meet again tomorrow to work bills before them.