



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**March 5, 2024**

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Bills**

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held hearings on bills, including [House Bill 2777](#) and [House Bill 2596](#).

[House Bill 2777](#) prohibits an employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal from wearing or operating a body camera during an on-site inspection at a patient care facility.

Proponent conferees included:

- Rep. Tim Johnson (R-Basehor) highlighted the right to privacy in childcare settings.
- LeadingAge Kansas
- [Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- Linda Mowbray, Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living

Neutral conferees included:

- Mark Engholm, Kansas State Fire Marshal

[House Bill 2596](#) adds and removes certain substances in Schedules I, II, IV and V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and makes conforming changes to the criminal code definition of "fentanyl-related controlled substances."

Proponent conferees included:

- Alexandra Blasi, Kansas Board of Pharmacy
- Robert Stuart, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Neutral conferees included:

- Nicholas Reinecker, Citizen

Neither bills before the committee had opposition testimony. The committee meets tomorrow.

### **Senate Ways and Means Adds Funds for Hospitals with Mental Health Beds**

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), began assembling the budget bill and discussed [Senate Bill 514](#). The committee revisited items they held over for discussion as they assembled the budget, including additional reimbursements for mental health beds at hospitals in Kansas. At the request of Senator Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick) and seconded by Senator JR Claeys (R-Salina), the committee added \$10 million for hospitals with non-geriatric mental health beds.

The committee meets tomorrow to continue building the mega budget bill.

### **House Health and Human Services Committee**

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

[Senate Bill 433](#) clarifies the practice privileges of institutional license holders. The committee heard from Deputy Secretary Scott Brunner, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage.

[Senate Bill 352](#) enacts the John D. Springer Patient's Bill of Rights to require hospitals to allow in-person visitation, adopts visitation policies and procedures and creates a civil cause of action for violation of such rights.

Proponents included Debbie Detmer

Opponent testimony was provided by the [Kansas Hospital Association](#) and Kansas Medical Society.

The committee will work the bill when they meet tomorrow.

### **2024 Rally for Medicaid Expansion – Mar. 6**

The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas and other Medicaid expansion advocacy groups are hosting a [rally](#) at the Kansas Statehouse at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow, Mar. 6, in the second-floor rotunda of the Capitol. Gov. Laura Kelly will give the keynote address. Attendees also will hear from advocates about why Medicaid expansion is so critical. You may also set up a time to [meet with your legislators](#).



We hope to see you there!

**Introduction of Bills**

[House Bill 2818](#) – Concerns the legislature; relates to legislation about occupational regulation; provides for a review process and evaluation criteria for the legislature when considering bills that propose new or additional occupational regulation; requires regulatory entities at the direction of the joint committee on administrative rules and regulations to provide a report to the legislature to inform the legislature's consideration of such proposals; authorizes the Joint Committee to contract for such a report when necessary

– By Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Requested by Representative L. Williams