



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**March 12, 2024**

**House Health and Human Services Holds Roundtable on Parent Consent Legislation**

Yesterday, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) held a roundtable on [House Bill 2793](#). The legislation prohibits health care providers from performing health care services on minors without parental consent.

Participants in the discussion included:

- Andy Brown, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- Terah Remington-Brown
- Dr. Sarah Gilliland, Kansas School Nurse Organization
- Amy Campbell, Kansas Mental Health Coalition
- Connor Stangler, Children's Mercy Hospital
- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society
- Kasey Dalke, Kansas Child Advocacy Centers
- Rachel Marsh, Children's Alliance of Kansas
- Monica Kurz, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ
- Leah Filter, Kansas Association of School Boards
- Randy Kosterman, Wyandotte County Behavioral Health Network

The roundtable participants highlighted a need to more narrowly define treatments and provide further exceptions for the treatment of venereal disease and substance abuse. Child welfare case management services were exempt.

A committee member asked if screenings would be prohibited without parental consent. Staff confirmed that is the case.

A committee member asked if a 14-year-old could get treatment. Wyandotte County confirmed by Kansas law an initial assessment could be performed but a written diagnosis would be provided to the parents. An explanation was provided on how a teen evaluation is conducted and how notification of the outcomes of the assessment is provided to parents. He believes that emergency medical care should be expanded to include mental health assessments and be consistent with other state statutes.

The committee heard from the Child Advocacy Centers about concerns parents could withdraw consent if they believe someone in their family may be exposed to child sexual assault. The committee asked what percentage of child abuse is reported by schools.

The committee heard 988 crisis center statistics on callers, texters, and messengers under 20 and highlighted it would be difficult to get consent from a minor before providing any messaging or call response. She highlighted they do consent for CCBHC referrals but for mobile crisis they do not require consent. Rep. Bryce suggested the intent of the legislation is to allow services such as the 911 crisis line and mental health services. The roundtable participants highlighted mental health needs to be more specific instead of assuming it falls under emergency care. The committee asked for clarification around the term treatment in the bill.

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

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held hearings on the following bills:

[House Bill 2547](#) authorizes schools to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergencies.

Proponents:

- Leah Filter, Kansas Association of School Boards
- Kimberly Martin, Kansas School Nurses Organization
- Alexandra Blasi, Kansas Board of Pharmacy
- Sara Prem, American Lung Association in Kansas
- Molly Starr, parent
- Heather Braum, Kansas Action for Children
- Paul Teran, MD, Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
- Carol Moreland, Kansas State Board of Nursing
- Erin Atteberry, Kansas Public Health Association

[House Bill 2579](#) authorizes the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services to distribute non-prescription over-the-counter medications.

Proponents:

- Joe House, Kansas Board of EMS
- J. Paul David, Johnson County EMS
- Randy Bowman, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society
- Mark Health, Wyandotte County EMS
- Jess Boss, Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue
- Erin Atteberry, Kansas Pharmacists Association
- Charlie Hunt, Johnson County Health Department

- Bryan Beaver, FAAEM
- Alexandra Blasi, executive director, Kansas Board of Pharmacy

[House Bill 2784](#) transfers authority for certification of continuing care retirement communities from the Kansas Insurance Department to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and lowers the nursing facility provider assessment for continuing care retirement communities.

Proponents submitting testimony to the committee:

- Lacey Hunter, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita)
- Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Department

Neutral:

- Rachel Monger, LeadingAge Kansas

The committee will continue bill hearings when they meet again tomorrow.

### **House Appropriations Creates Sub Committee to Address Contract Nursing**

Today, the House Appropriations Committee created a subcommittee to look at contract nursing during Omnibus budget discussions. Those appointed to the committee include:

- Rep. Les Mason (R-McPherson)
- Rep. Henry Helgeson (D-Wichita)
- Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita)
- Rep. Susan Concannon (R-Beloit)
- Rep. Barbara Ballard (D-Lawrence)

### **House Federal and State Affairs Committee Sees Provider Assessment Bill Introduction**

Today, the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), saw a bill introduction that increases the hospital provider assessment from 3 percent to 6 percent. The language for the bill is not available yet. It will be read into the chamber in the coming days but a hearing is expected next week.

### **House Commerce Committee Hears Bill on Occupational Regulations**

Today, the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee, chaired by Rep. Sean Tarwater (R-Stillwell), held a hearing on [House Bill 2818](#). The legislation provides for a legislative review process and criteria when considering bills that propose new or additional occupational regulation, requires the joint committee on administrative rules and regulations to review such bills and authorizes the joint committee to direct regulatory entities to contract with a consulting firm to provide a report to the legislature to inform the legislature's consideration of such bill.

Proponent testimony:

- UNITED WE
- Americans for Prosperity – Kansas
- Opportunity Solutions Projects
- Kansas Chamber
- Kansas Policy Institute
- American Global Strategies
- Majority Leader Chris Croft (R-Overland Park)
- State Armor Action

Neutral testimony:

- Bel Aire Police Department
- Randy Leis, County Commissioner

Opponent testimony:

- Board of Technical Professions