



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 23, 2025

KHA Hosts Annual Advocacy Day

The Kansas Hospital Association today hosted their Annual Advocacy Day. More than 130 attendees heard from Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, from Chairman of House Health and Human Services Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado) and Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Rick Billinger (R-Goodland). Attendees got to hear from a panel of policymakers who have had a career in healthcare and serve as an elected official. Panelists included: Senator Bill Clifford (R-Garden City), Representative Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville), Representative Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita), and Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City). Attendees also heard from Secretary Janet Stanek of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment before heading to the capitol where they got to have lunch with State Senators and watch the House in action as they debated their governing rules.

Senate Ways and Means Hears about Child Day Care Tax Credits and Daycare

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), heard from the Kansas Department of Revenue about the child daycare assistance tax credit and the Children's Cabinet on tax credits.

The committee heard four taxpayer entities used this tax credit. The committee members specifically asked if hospitals could qualify. Staff suggested they are eligible if they are tax-paying entity.

Next, the committee heard from Melissa Rooker with the Children's Cabinet. She reported that 63 communities have received \$54.4 million in grants. The allocations created 3,340 new licensed childcare slots, including 1,368 infants and highlighted 28 new childcare facilities in 20 Kansas counties.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears from Post Audit and Community Mental Health Centers

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora) heard updates from the Legislative Post Audit staff regarding the Osawatimie State Hospital, The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The committee also heard from the Kancare Ombudsman, and the Kansas Association of Community Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.

The committee also saw bill introductions dealing with Certified Nurse Anesthetists and Kansas Physicians Associates.

House Health and Human Services Committee Hears from Aging Community

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), heard updates from Interhab, Kansas Nursing Homes, and Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas.

Kansas Insurance Department Appears Before Senate Finance and Insurance Committee

Today, the Senate Finance and Insurance Committee, chaired by Senator Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), heard a briefing from the Kansas Insurance Department. Commissioner Vicki Schmidt appeared before the committee to discuss the department and answer questions from the committee.

House Appropriations Approves Some Agency Budgets

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), met to hear budgets. The committee passed out the Board of Pharmacy budget as recommended by the House Social Services Budget Committee. The committee also reviewed and passed out other agency budgets, including the Board of Mortuary Arts, The Kansas State Historical Society, the Kansas Department of Revenue, the Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Board of Accountancy.

The committee will meet again next week to continue reviewing agency budgets.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 63](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning children and minors; relating to health care of minors; enacting the Help Not Harm Act; prohibiting health care providers from treating a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action against health care providers for providing such treatments; restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning; prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for health care providers that provide gender transition treatment to children; requiring professional discipline against a health care provider who performs such treatments; adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians

[Senate Bill 67](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning health professions and practices; relating to the regulation of nursing; authorizing independent practice authority and the prescribing of drugs by registered nurse anesthetists; prohibiting the performance of an abortion or prescribing of drugs for an abortion thereby

[Senate Bill 68](#) by the Committee on Ways and Means – Making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, for state agencies; authorizing certain transfers, capital improvement projects and fees, imposing certain restrictions and limitations, and directing or authorizing certain receipts, disbursements, procedures and acts incidental to the foregoing

[Senate Bill 69](#) by the Committee on Assessment and Taxation – Concerning economic development; relating to rural opportunity zones; extending the time period for eligibility for the Loan Repayment Program and the income tax credit

[House Bill 2069](#) by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by William Wilk on behalf of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce – Concerning health and health care; relating to school psychologists; enacting the School Psychologist Compact to provide interstate practice privileges

[House Bill 2070](#) by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by William Wilk on behalf of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce – Concerning health and health care; relating to dietitians; enacting the Dietitian Compact to provide interstate practice privileges.

[House Bill 2071](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Bryce –Concerning children and minors; relating to health care of minors; enacting the Help Not Harm Act; prohibiting health care providers from treating a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action against health care providers for providing such treatments; restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning; prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for health care providers that provide gender transition treatment to children; requiring professional discipline against a health care provider who performs such treatments; adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians

[House Bill 2072](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative S. Ruiz on behalf of the Kansas Art Therapy – Concerning the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board; relating to the powers, duties and functions thereof; enacting the Art Therapist Licensure Act; providing for the regulation and licensing of professional art therapists

[House Bill 2082](#) by the Committee on Appropriations, requested by Representative Waymaster on behalf of the Office of the Governor – Making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, for state agencies; authorizing certain transfers, capital improvement projects and fees, imposing certain restrictions and limitations and directing or authorizing certain receipts, disbursements, procedures and acts incidental to the foregoing