



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**January 30, 2025**

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Meets**

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage, saw bill introductions on the following topics:

- Prohibiting schools from excluding students from attendance who have not received a quarantine or isolation order
- Authorizing victims of child abuse to access their Department of Children and Family Services files, childhood sexual abuse, and abortion.

Language on those bills will be coming in the coming days.

The committee also held a hearing on [Senate Bill 31](#), relating to the Kansas Dental Practices Act; relating to dentist information requested by patients, in-person practice requirements in dental offices using a licensee's name, unprofessional conduct and patient complaints. The committee heard from the following:

**Proponents:**

- Mike O'Neal, Association of Dental Support Organization
- Dr. Daniel Thomas, Practicing Periodontist and Kansas Business Owner
- William Wilk, The Kansas Chamber

**Neutrals:**

- Tanya Dorf Brunner, Oral Health Kansas

**Opponents:**

- Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association
- Dr. Kailah Wilms, Free State Dental
- Dr. Taylor Merklein, Atchison Dentist

The committee will meet on Monday, Feb. 3.

### **House Appropriations Committee Hears Kansas University Medical Center Report Out**

Today, the House Appropriations Committee heard the budget report outs, including requests from the Kansas University Medical Center. As Chairman Steven Howe (R-Salina) described committee action on the budget, he highlighted that language was added by a member highlighting a recent understanding that hospitals won't allow access to MyChart for children over 14 and adding language that would direct that no funds be appropriated if those policies are in place. The committee chair Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill) highlighted the governing structure differences between The University of Kansas Health System and the Kansas University Medical Center. Committee members asked about the new Cancer Center allocations that will be carried over into future fiscal years. Representative Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) requested a breakdown of the bonding authority requests. Representative Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton) expressed support for the use of MyChart. The committee recommended the budget as was passed by the higher education committee.

The committee also heard report outs on budgets for the Kansas Department of Labor, Kansas Insurance Department, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, University of Kansas, Kansas 911 Coordinating Council, Kansas Bureau of Investigation and Kansas Fire Marshal.

The committee will meet again on Friday.

### **House Health and Human Services Committee Hears from Health Groups**

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville), heard from the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Oral Health Kansas and the Kansas Dental Association. The committee will meet again next week.

### **House Social Services Budget Committee Holds Public Testimony on KDADS Budget**

Today, the House Social Services Budget Committee will hear public testimony on the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services budget. The [Kansas Hospital Association will testify](#) on maintaining the reimbursement program for hospitals, counties and jails for patients awaiting placement at state facilities. In addition, KHA plans to raise issues related to the difficulty of patient transfers, behavioral health access and the need for rate enhancements to keep the long-term care community viable.

The committee is slated to take action on the Department of Children and Families budget on Friday, Jan. 31, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Health's budget on Monday, Feb. 3, and the KDADS budget on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

### **House Takes Final Action on Gender Care Bill**

Today, the House held a full debate on [Senate Bill 63](#) concerning health care of minors and prohibiting certain treatments and procedures for a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action for such treatments and restrictions of state funds to promote gender transitions. The bill passed on a voice vote, and a final vote will be taken before the bill would then go to Governor Laura Kelly.

### **Introduction of Bills**

[Senate Bill 102](#) by Senator Shane – Concerning children and minors; relating to the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families; requiring coroners to report certain information to the secretary; clarifying the identifying information in mandatory reports of abuse or neglect of children to the secretary; increasing the penalty for failing to report such abuse or neglect from a misdemeanor to a felony

[House Bill 2144](#) by Representative Rhiley – Enacting the Supported Decision-Making Agreements Act; relating to decision-making assistance for adults

[House Bill 2151](#) by Representatives Woodard, Alcalá, Amyx, Carlin, Carmichael, Carr, Featherston, Haskins, Hoye, Martinez, McDonald, Melton, Meyer, Miller, Neighbor, Sawyer Clayton, Schlingensiepen, Simmons, Stogsdill, Weigel, Wikle and Xu – Concerning labor and employment; increasing the Kansas minimum wage to \$15 an hour

[House Bill 2157](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Heather Sprague on behalf of the Kansas Association of Chain Drugstores – Concerning pharmacists and pharmacy; relating to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy; expanding the pharmacist's scope of practice to include point-of-care testing for and treatment of COVID-19