



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**February 6, 2025**

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears Bill on Health Care Stabilization Fund**

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 41](#). The bill adds advanced practice registered nurses to the definition of health care provider for purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act.

Proponents included:

- Rachele Columbo, executive director of the Kansas Medical Society

Opponents included:

- Dustin Baker, Kansas Advance Practice Nurses Association

Clark Shultz, executive director of the Health Care Stabilization Fund, answered committee member questions.

The committee will meet again to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 29](#). The bill regulates the activities of local health officers related to public health functions and revokes the secretary's authority to quarantine individuals and impose penalties for violations thereof.

**Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee Hears Rural Opportunity Zone Legislation**

Today, the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee heard [Senate Bill 69](#). The committee would extend the loan repayment program and income tax credit for rural opportunity zones by five years. The committee heard proponent testimony from the [Kansas Hospital Association](#) and [Minneola Healthcare](#).

**House Appropriations Committee Removes Health Care Training Funds**

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), heard the Kansas Department of Commerce budget. The committee voted 11-9 to remove the \$1 million for the health care upskilling training program due to concerns about whether this should be included in the budget.

Representative Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton) urged the committee to consider this funding in another area in the future.

## **House Health and Human Services Committee Hears from IG and Mental Health Updates**

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee heard from the Medicaid inspector general, who reviewed the agency's mission and structure and shared the results and achievements of the office.

The Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas gave an overview of their association. They highlighted that the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers will increase costs by 40 percent but increase access by 75 percent. Kyle Kessler presented that all 26 mental health providers in the state are now CCBHCs.

Tim DeWeese of the Johnson County Mental Health Center testified to the benefits of the CCBHC model, highlighting that turnover went from 27 percent to 15 percent and vacancy rates are now under 6 percent.

Four County Mental Health Center presented to the committee that it serves 6,800 patients annually and that 87 percent of high-risk patients require no hospitalization.

Michelle Ponce, acting director of the Kansas Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, discussed the center's goals to provide access to expertise, develop workforce strategies and research how to leverage existing resources. The center selected Wichita as the location based on the new state hospital. They appropriated \$5.8 million to help nursing retention, provided 19 community and technical college grants, provided 14 scholarships at Wichita State University and are expanding internships and fellowships with local child/adolescent psychiatry and addiction medicine. They request \$9.7 million in state general funds for fiscal year 2026.

Dr. Ken Stolfuz, vice president of Academic Affairs at Friends University, and Dr. Tiffany Masson from Kansas Health Science University discussed the industry needs in mental health in south-central Kansas.

The committee will meet again next week.

### **Introduction of Bills**

[Senate Bill 174](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning abortion; creating the Abolish Abortion Kansas Act; making all abortions subject to criminal prosecution for violation of Alexa's law; removing certain exceptions to wrongful death cause of action for the death of an unborn child when such death is caused by an abortion

[Senate Bill 177](#) by Committee on Federal and State Affairs – Concerning elections; relating to campaign contribution limits; increasing the limits on certain campaign contributions; providing for automatic increases in such limits based on the consumer price index; eliminating such limits on contributions to or by party committees

[Senate Bill 181](#) by the Committee on Ways and Means – Concerning state finances; limiting the annual amount of expenditures and transfers from the State General Fund; requiring certification by the state treasurer; providing for additional requirements on the governor's and legislature's budget plans and legislative measures

[Senate Bill 182](#) by the Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance – Concerning health insurance; relating to dental benefit plans and services; enacting the Kansas Medical Loss Ratios for Dental Healthcare Services Plans Act; requiring certain carriers to file a dental loss ratio annual report; providing for remediation or enforcement actions against certain carriers that report dental loss ratios that do not meet the required ratio percentage; authorizing the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations therefor

[Senate Bill 183](#) by the Committee on Judiciary – Concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to crimes involving government functions; creating the crimes of interference with a security camera in a correctional facility and aggravated interference with a security camera in a correctional facility and providing criminal penalties therefor

[Senate Bill 189](#) by Senators Sykes, Corson, Francisco, Holscher and Pettey – Concerning Workers Compensation; relating to injured employees; providing the employee the freedom of choice in designating a health care provider; requiring the employer to pay for the services of the designated health care provider

[Senate Bill 196](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs – Concerning employment; prohibiting the employment of unauthorized aliens by business entities and public employers; requiring use and registration of the e-verify program; prohibiting the deduction of certain wages and remuneration to unauthorized aliens

[Senate Bill 198](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning abortion; prohibiting abortion procedures, except when necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman; providing a private cause of action for civil enforcement of violations of such prohibition

[Senate Bill 207](#) by the Committee on Ways and Means – Concerning child care; relating to the Kansas Department of Administration, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and the the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; establishing a pilot program to provide health services to child care providers; making telehealth consultation services available to eligible child care providers; providing up to \$100 per month in reimbursements for prescription medication costs to child care providers accepted into the health services program; prohibiting cities, counties or other political subdivisions from regulating licensed child care providers more strictly than state law; requiring the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide a list of licensed child care providers to any city, county or other political subdivision upon request; providing any licensed in-home or group-home child care providers that receive a lower tier of reimbursement under the child and adult care food program to be matched with the top tier of funding that is otherwise made available to other providers under the program; developing and providing free orientation and training programs and training materials to child care providers and licensees; allowing orientation and training to count as continuing education hours; requiring the department and the Kansas Children's Cabinet to develop a training reimbursement program

[Senate Bill 212](#) by Senator Sykes – Concerning health and health care; enacting the Prescription Drug Cost and Affordability Review Act; establishing the Prescription Drugs Pricing Board and Prescription Drug Affordability Stakeholder Council to review the cost of prescription medications and establish upper payment limits for certain prescription drug products

[Senate Bill 216](#) by Senators Corson, Holscher, Pettey, Schmidt and Sykes – Concerning labor and employment; establishing the Kansas Paid Sick Time Act; requiring earned paid sick time to be compensated at the same hourly rate and benefits as normally earned; detailing the accrual of earned paid sick time, with different limits based on the size of the employer; allowing carryover of up to 80 hours of unused paid sick time or payment for unused time at year-end; requiring employers to provide employees with written notice regarding earned paid sick time; mandating that earned paid sick time be available for various health-related and safety-related reasons; prohibiting employers from requiring employees to find replacement workers when using paid sick time; allowing employers to require reasonable documentation for earned paid sick time used for three or more consecutive days; making it unlawful for employers to retaliate against employees exercising rights under the act; granting employees the right to bring civil action for violations; ensuring confidentiality of health and safety information; affirming that the act does not apply to employees under a collective bargaining agreement until such agreement's expiration; affirming that the act provides minimum requirements and does not preempt greater benefits than provided by this act

[Senate Bill 218](#) by Senators Corson, Holscher, Pettey, Schmidt and Sykes – Concerning labor and employment; increasing the minimum wage of employees

[Senate Bill 219](#) by Senator Sykes – Concerning insurance; relating to accident and health insurance; imposing coverage requirements for coverage of diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations

[House Bill 2223](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Buehler on behalf of the Kansas Optometric Association – Concerning health professions and practices; relating to optometry; modifying certain provisions of the optometry law related to scope of practice, definitions and credentialing requirements

[House Bill 2230](#) by Representative Reavis – Concerning food products; regulating the preparation, distribution and sale of kratom products; prohibiting the preparation, distribution and sale of adulterated or contaminated kratom products; establishing fines and penalties; enacting the Kratom Consumer Protection Act; requiring the secretary of agriculture to adopt rules and regulations to administer the act

[House Bill 2236](#) by the Committee on Appropriations, requested by Representative Ballard on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services – Concerning mental health; relating to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and mental health intervention team providers; establishing the mental health intervention team program in state statute; providing incentives for coordination between school districts, qualified schools and mental health intervention team providers

[House Bill 2239](#) by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by Carson Cruzeiro – concerning labor and employment; requiring every employer to provide each employee with meal periods and rest periods; defining undue hardship as a significant difficulty or expense for the employer; allowing exemptions for meal periods under certain conditions, such as industry practice or unforeseeable circumstances; prohibiting the combination of rest and meal periods; allowing employees to waive meal periods under specific conditions, including written consent and the ability to revoke the waiver; prohibiting employer coercion in waiving meal periods; imposing penalties for violations, including fines up to \$2,000

[House Bill 2240](#) by the Committee on Welfare Reform, requested by Representative Averkamp – Concerning public assistance; relating to medical assistance; requiring approval by an act of the legislature prior to any state agency seeking or implementing a Medicaid state plan, state plan amendment, state demonstration or waiver under section 1115 or 1915 of the Federal Social Security Act that expands coverage or increases cost to the state

[House Bill 2244](#) by the Committee on Insurance, requested by Representative Sutton – Concerning the Kansas Board of Pharmacy; prohibiting the Board of Pharmacy from adopting rules and regulations that would limit or condition the use of telepharmacy; modifying the composition of board members of the Board of Pharmacy

[House Bill 2245](#) by the Committee on Insurance, requested by Representative Sutton – Concerning the commissioner of insurance; relating to the division of the State Employee Health Benefits Plan; transferring officers, employees, powers, duties and functions relating to the Kansas Health Care Benefits Program and the Kansas Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund from the division of the State Employee Health Benefits Plan of the Kansas Department of Administration to the Insurance Department; establishing the commissioner of insurance as the chairperson of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission; providing that all management functions of such commission shall be administered by the commissioner of insurance; eliminating a pilot program regarding employer contributions for certain children

[House Bill 2246](#) by the Committee on Insurance, requested by Representative Sutton – Concerning health and health care; relating to hospitals; requiring that hospitals provide online pricing information for certain items and services; enacting the Consumer Protection Related to Hospital Price Transparency Act; referring noncompliant hospitals to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for enforcement purposes; providing for civil actions against noncompliant hospitals

[House Bill 2247](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Reavis on behalf of the Kansas Dental Association – Concerning insurance; relating to contracts between an insurer and a dental health care provider; requiring reviews, audits or investigations be completed within six months; prohibiting denial for claims submitted by dentists for procedures included in a prior authorization

[House Bill 2248](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Turner on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association – Concerning the Kansas Board of Regents; establishing the Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Program; authorizing the Kansas Board of Regents to approve need-based or competitive grants for the expansion of nursing faculty, laboratory supplies and tools for student success at postsecondary educational institutions

[House Bill 2249](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative W. Carpenter on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association – concerning rural emergency hospitals; relating to nursing facility physical environment regulatory requirements; requiring the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant waivers to certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care

[House Bill 2250](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative W. Carpenter on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association – Relating to health and health care; concerning hospital providers; increasing the annual assessment on services rate on inpatient and outpatient revenue; expanding exemptions for such assessment

[House Bill 2251](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Buehler – concerning health and health care; relating to health professions and practices; requiring the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts to grant provisional licensure to certain international physicians with offers of employment at health care providers that operate in Kansas

[House Bill 2266](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Beuhler on behalf of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce – Concerning health and health care; relating to advanced practice registered nurses; enacting the advanced practice registered nurses compact to provide interstate practice privileges

[House Bill 2267](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative S. Ruiz – Concerning health and health care; relating to behavioral and mental health; prohibiting certain licensed individuals from using conversion therapy on minors

[House Bill 2274](#) by the Committee on Veterans and Military, requested by Representative Thompson – concerning occupational licensing; relating to occupational licensing, certification and registration fees; removing the active requirement from military servicemembers for occupational licensure

[House Bill 2280](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs, requested by Sean Gatewood on behalf of Sunflower Consulting – Concerning health and health care; relating to emergency medical services; establishing that the authorized activities of paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians and emergency medical responders may be authorized upon the order of a health care professional; permitting nonemergency ambulance services to offer service for less than 24 hours per day, every day of the year; requiring entities placing automated external defibrillators for use within the state to register with the Emergency Medical Services Board

[House Bill 2284](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative W. Carpenter on behalf of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare – Concerning the Department of Administration; relating to the procurement of managed care organizations for the Kansas Program of Medical Assistance; requiring adoption of policies

[House Bill 2286](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Reavis on behalf of the Kansas Dental Association – Concerning insurance; relating to dental benefit plans; providing for the use of alternative forms of payment

[House Bill 2287](#) by the Committee on Welfare Reform, requested by Representative Ousley – Concerning public assistance; relating to the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families; eliminating certain restrictions for eligibility for public assistance; removing the requirement to cooperate with child support services for eligibility; extending the lifetime limitation of temporary assistance for needy families to 60 months; providing for hardship extensions to be granted by the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families; exempting parents providing care for a child less than one year of age from work participation activities; eliminating restrictions on persons convicted of drug felonies from receiving food assistance; permitting the secretary to grant categorical eligibility standards; eliminating photograph requirements on benefits cards; eliminating requirements for employment and training programs for certain individuals to be eligible for food assistance; eliminating legislative action to be required for expansion of the Medical Assistance Program

[House Bill 2294](#) by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by Representative L. Williams – Concerning child care; relating to licensure of daycare facilities, child care homes and child care centers; reducing license fees and training requirements; creating a process for daycare facility licensees to apply for a temporary waiver of certain statutory requirements; authorizing the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop and operate pilot programs to increase childcare facility availability and capacity; establishing the Kansas Office of Early Childhood; transferring administration of daycare licensing, parent education programs and the Child Care Subsidy Program to the Kansas Office of Early Childhood; creating the Daycare Facilities and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Licensing Fee Fund and the Daycare Criminal Background and Fingerprinting Fund; defining youth development programs

[House Bill 2296](#) by Representatives Featherston, Alcalá, Amyx, Ballard, Brownlee Paige, Carlin, Carr, Curtis, Haskins, Helgerson, Hoye, Johnson, McDonald, Melton, Meyer, Miller, Mosley, Neighbor, Oropeza, Osman, Pickert, Poskin, Reavis, Resman, Roth, S. Ruiz, Sawyer, Sawyer Clayton, Schreiber, Schwertfeger, Seiwert, Simmons, Stiens, Stogsdill, Vaughn, Weigel, Wickle, L. Williams, Winn, Xu and Woodard – Concerning insurance; relating to health insurance plans; requiring no cost-sharing requirement applicable for a diagnostic or supplemental breast examination for breast cancer imposed on an insured

[House Bill 2301](#) by Representative Rhiley – Enacting the Returning to Nonaccountability of the Executive Branch Agencies that Report to the Governor Act; eliminating the budget process requirements of a performance-based budgeting system

[House Bill 2305](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Jeanne Gaudun on behalf of Kansans for Life – Concerning abortion; relating to health professions and practices; requiring that certain abortion complications be reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment



[House Bill 2307](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Howell on behalf of Kansans for Life – Concerning health and health care; relating to prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions; transferring the power to authorize and oversee certain activities regarding prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities