KHA’s Capitol Comments
March 13, 2020

House Passes Emergency Resolution
Following the Governor’s Emergency Declaration issued yesterday, the House today introduced House Concurrent Resolution 5025. Under Kansas law, a state of emergency cannot continue for more than 15 days. If the legislature is not in session, the governor can request the State Finance Council approve an extension of not more than 30 days, although multiple 30-day extensions can be approved. The continual extension application process is not necessary if a concurrent resolution of the legislature extends the initial 15-day period. The House resolution would extend the governor's emergency powers through Jan. 25, 2021. Such a declaration will give the governor the ability to redirect staff and resources of executive branch agencies to address the emergency. It does not give the governor a blank check to respond to the crisis. The resolution passed the House on a vote of 116-0.

House Committee Finishes Budget
The House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), met this morning to finalize the budget for state fiscal year 2020 and 2021. The chairman stressed he would oppose the addition of any items that had been delayed until Omnibus and that those items would be considered at a later date. He explained that given the current uncertainty nationwide regarding the impacts of COVID19, state revenues could be very different than what was provided in the November Consensus Revenue Estimates. Revenue estimates are updated every November and April for the governor and legislature to use in crafting the state’s budget.

The committee then proceeded to review the budget, which excludes funding for Medicaid expansion. There was only one health care-related amendment. The amendment raised the statutory cap on what local health departments receive to allow them to receive additional funding to address the coronavirus. The budget already includes language related to the provider assessment that protects provider rates at the current level and would implement the assessment rate increase of Senate Bill 225 if the bill is not passed by the 2020 legislature. The bill was then passed out by the committee and will go to the full House for approval next week.
Next Week's Schedule

Monday, March 16

*Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance* – 9:30 a.m. – 546S
Hearing: [House Bill 2480](#) – Updating the definition of long-term care insurance contained in the Long-Term Care Insurance Act

*House Appropriations* – 9:00 a.m. – 112N
Hearing: [House Bill 2594](#) – Supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for various state agencies
[House Bill 2597](#) – Appropriations for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022 for various state agencies

Tuesday, March 17

*House Appropriations* – 9:00 a.m. – 112N
Hearing: [House Bill 2594](#) – Supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for various state agencies
[House Bill 2597](#) – Appropriations for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022 for various state agencies

*House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development* – 1:30 p.m. – 112N
Discussion and Action: [House Bill 2529](#) – Amending STAR bonds by adding rural redevelopment projects and major business and medical facilities, increasing certain project investment and sales requirements, adding a return on investment analysis and other requirements and approvals by the secretary and extending the sunset date

*House Judiciary* – 3:30 p.m. – 346S
Hearing: [House Bill 2229](#) – Concerning the admission into evidence of a tape or recording created using an electronic monitoring device in an adult care home

Wednesday, March 18

*Senate Public Health and Welfare* – 9:30 a.m. – 118N
Confirmation Hearing: Dr. Talal Khan, Public Member, University of Kansas Hospital Authority
Hearing: [Senate Bill 493](#) – Amending Health Care Stabilization Fund coverage requirements and membership on the Board of Governors and providing for the dissolution of the fund under specified circumstances

*House Appropriations* – 9:00 a.m. – 112N
Hearing: [Senate Bill 255](#) – Appropriations to the University of Kansas Medical Center's cancer center research account

*House Health and Human Services* – 1:30 p.m. – 546S
Presentations: Brain Injury Waiver; KDHE Palliative Care Program

Thursday, March 19

*Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance* – 9:30 a.m. – 546S
Pending Hearing: [Senate Bill 495](#) – Contingently reinstating the Kansas Uninsurable Health Plan Act and renaming it the Kansas Guaranteed Coverage Pool Act
Friday, March 20
No relevant committee meetings

KHA Bill Tracker
The Kansas Hospital Association Bill Tracker is designed to keep you up-to-date on current legislation. KHA will update and share this document on a weekly basis while the legislators are in session. It lists the bill number and sponsor; subject of the proposed legislation; current status; and last action. If you have questions regarding legislation, please contact Chad Austin or Audrey Dunke! at (785) 233-7436.