Details on President’s Emergency Declaration
On March 13, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak, beginning March 1, 2020. The declaration is being made under the Stafford Act, which allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist state and local government coordinate response to the disease outbreak. It also allows the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, under section 1135 of the Social Security Act, to make sure there is sufficient access to health care during the pandemic. It also releases an estimated $50 billion in funding. What the declaration does not do is permit waivers or intrusions on individual constitutional rights. The Kansas Hospital Association will continue to update you on the actions being taking under the emergency declaration by the president as information becomes available.

Statehouse Relatively Quiet
The statehouse was relatively quiet this morning due to Governor Laura Kelly's order limiting use of the building to legislators, staff and those doing legislative business. House and Senate leadership met this morning to discuss the plan for moving forward this week in attempt to leave the statehouse as soon as reasonably possible for the April recess. The focus is mainly on passing a budget and bills related to supporting the response to the COVID-19 and its potential impacts in the weeks to come. Expect to see work finish up quickly this week, with as few committee meetings as absolutely necessary to get things done.