Senator Takes Up House Disaster Resolution
The full Senate took up House Concurrent Resolution 5025 today on the floor. HCR 5025 extends the governor's March 12, 2020, state of disaster emergency declaration for the State regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19) through Jan. 25, 2021. The concurrent resolution notes the state of disaster emergency declaration may be extended by the State Finance Council. The Senate had a lengthy debate on amendment to pull back some of the governor's disaster authority. The Senate passed amendments to shorten the extension of the emergency declaration to May 1, 2020, and require approval by the State Finance Council for 30-day extensions thereafter. In addition, the resolution was amended to prohibit the governor from temporary or permanent seizure of ammunition, suspension or limitation on the sale, dispensing or transportation of firearms or ammunition. The final amendment prohibits the governor from commandeering or utilizing private property, controlling movement of persons and animals into and out of the disaster area, or suspending or limiting the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives or combustibles or perform other activities for the safety and security of the civilian population. The senators expressed concern about the impact of the governor's closures and limitations to groups of 50 or less on various small businesses in the state. The resolution passed the Senate on a vote of 37-2. It will now go to the House, where it can be accepted by the body as amended by the Senate, or go to conference committee for resolution of the differences.

Senate and House Continue Budget Work
The Senate and House conferees on the budget continued to meet throughout the day today. Among the issues left to resolve is the status of Governor Laura Kelly's recommended Medicaid expansion funding, which is included in the Senate budget but was removed from the House budget. Another issue is the language the Kansas Hospital Association requested to maintain provider reimbursement rates funded by the provider assessment while the state waits for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approval of the changes to the program. Also left on the table is language or a separate conference report to put into law the updates to the provider assessment presented to the legislature in 2019. The conference committee will need to work into the night to be able to have a budget to put before the House and Senate tomorrow morning.