



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
***January 19, 2023***

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears about Interim Committee Reports**

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), heard an overview of the Healthcare Stabilization Fund, the Workforce Development Committee recommendations, the Special Committee on Developmental and Intellectual Wait Lists, and the Special Committee on Mental Health Beds from legislative staff. The committee raised concerns about waitlist times for services, inquired into the purview of the Special Committee on Mental Health Beds and if the causes of needs in mental health services had been studied.

The committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Jan. 24, to hear an overview of Kansas' local health departments.

**House Health and Human Services Hears from KDHE and KMS Staff**

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), heard from Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Janet Stanek on agency focus areas and goals. The committee also heard from KHDE Health Director Ashley Goss and the State Medicaid Director Sarah Fertig. Fertig gave an overview of the Medicaid program, the goals for 2023, the managed care organization contract process, and the end of the public health emergency and how that re-determination process will occur in Kansas. Committee members expressed interest in working with the agency to develop more instruments to use Narcan and address decriminalizing fentanyl test strips.

Kansas Medical Society Executive Director Rachelle Colombo gave an overview of the history and membership of the group. She emphasized KMS' mission and goals, as well as shared resources about care team members and the training requirements of those team members. Scope of practice was identified as a significant issue that comes before the committee regularly.

Colombo responded to questions about the makeup of Kansas physicians. She highlighted in Kansas, more than half of physicians are in private practice, with a large majority accepting KanCare patients. Colombo also stressed that since 2006, the physician fee schedule hasn't been increased. She pointed to the state medical student loan program for underserved areas that has historically worked well in attracting physicians to underserved areas.

## **Introduction of Bills**

[House Bill 2049](#) – By Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight

Concerning health professions and practices; relating to unlicensed employees working in adult care homes; nurse aide courses of instruction; prohibiting the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services from requiring that such courses to be longer than 75 hours

[House Bill 2050](#) – By Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight

Concerning the state Children's Health Insurance Program; relating to eligibility; updating income requirements therefor

[House Bill 2063](#) – By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Concerning Workers' Compensation; limiting Workers' Compensation reductions based on the receipt of retirement benefits to reductions of permanent disability compensation based on the receipt of retirement benefits that begin after an accident

[House Bill 2070](#) – By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to sentencing; allowing certain nondrug offenders to participate in a certified drug abuse treatment program

[House Bill 2071](#) – By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to terminal medical release; criteria for release; permitting release earlier in terminal diagnosis