



KHA's Capitol Comments **January 23, 2024**

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Veterans Affairs Budget

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held hearings on the budget for the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee oversees and makes recommendations on budgets for several agencies. Tomorrow, the committee will continue discussions from today and discuss the Kansas Guardianship Program.

Welfare Reform Joint Discussions

Today, the House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee held a joint discussion with the House Welfare Reform Committee for a briefing on welfare, fraud and the workforce.

The committee received a presentation on fraud from [Sam Adolphsen](#), policy director, the Foundation for Government Accountability. Adolphsen highlighted:

- Kansas food stamp enrollment – 187,000
- Food stamp spending – \$416 million
- Kansas Medicaid enrollment – 465,000
- Kansas Medicaid spending – \$5.591 billion
- Medicaid Error Rate
 - National error rate: 20 percent – \$80 billion in fraud and waste
 - 87 percent is due to the lack of documentation and "eligibility errors"
 - In Kansas, the Medicaid error rate is 27.8 percent; 99 percent is eligibility-related errors
- Medicaid – "Fraud by Design"
 - Banning redeterminations for years and requiring states to carry ineligible individuals
 - Elimination of asset tests
 - Presumptive eligibility expansions
 - "Self-attestation" accepted
 - Pre-populating forms
 - No interviews or follow-up on applications
- Food Stamps – "Fraud by Design"
 - Waivers from face-to-face interviews

- "Zero income" applications required to be rushed without verifying
- A standard of conviction for fraud and cooperation is not required
- Retailers can use EBT cards in their stores
- Food and Nutrition Services control retailer authorization
- The state doesn't get to keep enough of the overpayments
- Truly Needy – 7,700 people
- 86,000 businesses

House Health Hears Social Work Licensure Compact Legislation

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), held a hearing on [House Bill 2484](#), enacting the Social Work Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers.

Appearing before the committee as conferees were:

- Dave Fye, Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
- Karilyn Bison, Council of State Governments
- Becky Fast, Kansas Chapter of National Association of Social Workers
- Wendy Funk Schrag, Fresenius Medical Care
- Stephanie Metzger, social worker
- Ryan Speier, Integrated Psychiatric Consultants P.A.