

Kansas State Nurses Association Legislative Update



February 2016
2016 Kansas Legislative Session, Number 2

Status of bills from Legislative Update in January

The legislators were on break, from February 24 through March 2nd. They have until March 21st to clear bills that have come from the other chamber.

HB 2451 Expanding mandatory reporters of child abuse (adding animal control officers. . . and persons authorized to take custody of an animal . . . when investigating suspected cruelty to animals.)

This bill had a hearing January 27th. It remains in the House committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.

SB 9 Cannabis Compassion and Care Act (Medicinal Marijuana)

This bill was referred to the Senate committee on Public Health and Welfare. No action has been taken since January 2015.

HB 2058 and SB 265 The Kansas Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act sponsored by AARP the requires documentation of the name of the caregiver upon admission and mandates discharge teaching.

This bill (SB 265) was referred to the Senate committee on Public Health and Welfare but did not receive a hearing. HB 2058 received a hearing on February 3rd but no further action has occurred. It remains in the House committee, Health and Human Services.

HB 2313 Healthcare Worker Assault Legislation sponsored by ENA, law enforcement, KMS, EMS and KHA, making assault on a healthcare worker a high level misdemeanor.

This bill had a hearing in February 2015 and remains in the House committee Corrections and Juvenile Justice. No action has occurred in 2016.

SB 274 Increase unbelted seatbelt fines from \$10 to \$60 that would also fund the SAFE program, a seat belt education program for Kansas high schools.

This bill passed the Senate in April 2015 and was referred to the House committee on Transportation (April, 2015). Testimony in favor of this bill was presented by Darlene Whitlock, representing KENA and KSNA, the first week in March.

HB 2515 Abolishing the death penalty and creating the crime of aggravated murder, and provide for sentences of imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. The legislation would not be retroactive to people on death row nor apply in cases where the crime was committed before July 1, 2016.

This bill was referred to the House committee on Judiciary on January 25th. It remains in committee.



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HB 2482 and SB 358 Nurse Educator Service Scholarship. This bill was presented with change in the verbiage of the original bill that had excluded some of the graduate nursing programs in Kansas from participating. The bill established scholarship assistance through the Board of Regents for nurses completing a Masters degree in order to teach in a nursing program in Kansas. This bill passed as amended in the House committee Education Budget and was sent to the Senate where it became SB 238. It passed the Senate as amended in the Senate committee on Education. Because the bill was amended in the Senate, it had to go back to the house of origin for approval. The bill is currently in the House committee on Education.

Issues to monitor:

The Community Paramedic was discussed in a joint meeting between the KSBN and the Board of Healing Arts. Future meetings will be scheduled.

Expanding Medicaid. There was no action taken in either Chamber. Expect much discussion on this when the Legislature returns. There is a genuine concern for the viability of our critical access hospitals plus access to care for those who fall into the medicaid gap.

Opiates-Pain Medication Guidelines that are being developed and adopted in some states.

Full practice authority for APRNs in the VA. The ANA is taking initiative on this issue.

Fee Fund sweeps. The KSBN had \$250,000 swept from the agency. The Children's Initiatives funds were spared although there was conversation by the governor to access the money to fill the gap in the state budget.



KSNA's 40th Annual Legislative Conference a Big Draw



About 600 nursing students and nurses from across Kansas converged on Topeka, Thursday, February 18, to hear about nurses' roles as advocates for better healthcare. The full day included 20-plus vendors from throughout the Midwest representing hospitals, nursing schools, and related associations. The Kansas State Board of Nursing was available to fingerprint students who will soon be entering the professional workforce.

Speakers included keynote Kesa Bruce, state government affairs specialist with the American Nurses Association (ANA); Carol Moore, PhD, APRN, CNS, KSNA's legislative chair and lobbyist; Kathryn Scharz, MSN, RN, CPNP; Carla Lee, PhD, APRN-BC, A/FNP, CNS, FAAN, FIBA; Diane Bellquist, JD. The annual Future of Nursing Professionals Panel included Bernadette Fetterolf, PhD, APRN, CNS, representing nursing education; Michelle Knowles, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, representing advanced practice and Veterans Administration nursing; Laura Sidlinger, DNP, APRN-C, representing mental health nursing.

Topical discussions included the role of nurses in advocating for healthcare, understanding the legislative process, an update on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, ethics as the basis for standards of practice with an overview of the 2015 ANA revisions, and avoiding legal pitfalls in the practice of nursing.

Gold level sponsors for the event included Children's Mercy, Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System, and Salina Regional Health Center. Silver level included St. Francis Health (SCL Health), and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas.

The Midwest Multistate Division of ANA provided continuing nursing education contact hours for the event through the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Next year's event is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at the Ramada Convention Center, Topeka.



February 15, 2016

Sen. Jeff King, Chairman
Committee on Judiciary

Mr. Chairman and Committee on Judiciary Members,

The Kansas Emergency Nurses Association and the Kansas State Nurses Association would like to add their support to the passage of Senate Bill 415. Our particular interest and support concerns the continuation of the Advisory Committee on Trauma in Section 10.

The Advisory Committee on Trauma has been an effective body that has worked to improve trauma care in Kansas in conjunction with the Kansas Trauma Program. This diverse group of both rural and urban physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, hospital administrators and legislators all has this as a common goal.

The committee has developed and updated a statewide trauma system plan; formed Regional Trauma Councils that address local injury prevention and treatment issues; participates in the continuation of a valid Trauma Registry; implemented designation and re-designation of all levels of trauma center facilities, and has supported both prevention and injury treatment education.

We feel it is vital that this Committee on Trauma reduces injury and death from traumatic events in our state and we will appreciate you passing this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Darlene S. Whitlock APRN, RN, CMT
Board of Directors, Kansas Emergency Nurses Association
Member, Kansas State Nurses Association Legislative Committee



Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 274

Chairman Proehl and Members of House Transportation Committee:

My name is Darlene Whitlock. I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee.

I am an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Education Specialist, who worked in the Emergency Department for many years. I am here representing the Kansas Emergency Nurses Association (KENA), The Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA) and as a member of Safe Kids Kansas coalition. The approximate 1500 members from those organizations would like to add their support to this important piece of legislation, funding the Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE) program. We believe increasing the fine for lack of seatbelt use is also a measure for public health.

Unfortunately, nurses from across the state have seen the devastating injuries and even death that is associated with teens involved in motor vehicle crashes. We believe these injuries could be significantly reduced if they were educated on the importance of wearing seatbelts. We appreciated the enactment of the Graduated Driver License legislation and the resultant decrease in teen deaths. SB 274 is consistent with that injury prevention focus. Perhaps, if wearing a seatbelt becomes a consistent behavior in teenage years, they will continue it as they grow older.

There is Kansas specific evidence to show that the SAFE Program improves seatbelt use through a cooperative effort from the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office, law enforcement and high school students themselves. This nationally recognized program has changed the culture in 127 High schools and their communities. By assuring funding on a consistent basis, the program will be able to sustain and expand to more schools.

Care that even the most educated and dedicated nurses give, does not compare to the benefit of a teen not being injured. One of the most difficult tasks we have is seeing serious injury and even death that could have been prevented.

Thank you for opportunity to speak. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Darlene S. Whitlock APRN, RN
Board of Directors, Kansas Emergency Nurses Association
Member of Legislative Committee, Kansas State Nurses Association