



Rep. Lewis "Bill" Bloom's Legislative Newsletter

Your *Go-To* source for happenings in the State Capitol

Week of February 23, 2026

Week 6 of the 2026 Kansas Legislative Session:

This week in the House was the longest one yet – it's the last week we have to move House Bills out of our chamber and over to the Senate. We worked many 12+ hour days to move forward some valuable legislation. Below I'll give you a rundown of some highlights or issues that hit close to home. If you have any questions on bills or my voting record, please reach out. We may not agree but I hope I can at least explain my rationale.

Highlights from the First Half of Session

Improving Access to Care: HB2533 & HB2534-I supported these bills because access to healthcare should not depend on your ZIP code. HB2533 and HB2534 remove barriers and help ensure more Kansans, especially in rural and underserved communities, can receive timely, quality care.

Child Welfare: Sub for Sub HB2132-Protecting vulnerable children must always be a top priority. These bills strengthen our child welfare system by clarifying when law enforcement must step in and ensuring children in dangerous situations receive protection and support as quickly as possible.

Securing Our Elections: HB2438-Kansans deserve confidence in our elections. HB2438 mandates that voter registration happens only through secure, ".gov" websites approved by the Secretary of State, ensuring that voter's registration data is secure.

Public Safety: HB2347-Keeping our communities safe is one of my core responsibilities. HB2347 updates key public safety policies and provides law enforcement with the tools they need to protect Kansas families.

Cell Phones in Schools: SB 281-Our classrooms should be places of focus and learning. SB 281 establishes clear guidelines on cell phone use during school hours to reduce distractions and support student success.

Criminal Sentencing Laws: HB2444-Justice requires clarity and consistency. HB2444 updates our sentencing statutes to ensure penalties reflect the seriousness of offenses and are applied uniformly.

Caleb's Law: HB2537-Kansas HB 2537 increases criminal penalties for sexual extortion when the offender is an adult and the victim is a minor, elevating the severity level of the offense under state law. The measure responds to growing concerns about adult exploitation of minors, especially through digital coercion, by strengthening accountability and legal protections.

Trey's Law: HB2688-Trey's Law ensures that perpetrators of sexual childhood sexual abuse and human trafficking cannot protect themselves via NDAs and will help victims of such crimes be able to find the justice they deserve.

SB 244 Veto Override: Grounded in Natural Law and the Protection of Privacy-Over the past few years, confusion around this issue has created inconsistency in public policy, especially in spaces like restrooms, locker rooms, and changing areas where privacy is especially important. I believe the state has a duty to protect individuals, particularly women and girls, in spaces where they may be in a state of undress.

The bill also clarifies that for purposes of Kansas law, the terms sex and gender refer to biological sex at birth. It ensures that official state records such as driver's licenses and birth certificates reflect that reality. In my judgment, the law should be grounded in objective truth, not shifting definitions. Accurate records and consistent standards are essential for public safety, fair application of the law, and responsible governance.

I understand that not everyone agrees with this perspective. I respect that thoughtful people can approach this issue differently. But I believe laws must rest on stable foundations. When government drifts away from basic truths about human nature, confusion and conflict follow.

Protecting Kansas Nurses: HB2528

This law protects Kansas nurses from unduly harsh and unfair nonpractice violations by allowing for late license renewal and limiting the scope of "unprofessional conduct" to acts specifically related to nursing. Additionally, this law requires that Board members be confirmed by the Senate. Nurses are critical to Kansas, and this law protects them from unfair treatment by the State Board of Nursing.

Pages at the Capitol

Although the U.S. House of Representatives has discontinued its page program, here in Kansas, we continue to offer students a unique opportunity to learn about legislation firsthand at the Capitol.

Former United States Representative Kevin Yoder brought his daughters to serve as pages this past Wednesday. It was incredible to see the younger generation engaged in the legislative process.

I recently had 6 Pages from my District Area come to the Capitol in February and am excited to have 3 more coming in March. The smile on all these young students' faces gives me great hope for our future young leaders.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. Enjoy the weather!

Until next week,

Representative Lewis "Bill" Bloom

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