

The Moser Minute

Weekly update from your Kansas House District 106
Representative Lisa M. Moser



Greetings! Welcome to the first “Moser Minute,” designed to give you a quick peek inside the happenings of the Capitol.

Week Two: With Monday being Martin Luther King Day, there was no session. Tuesday and Wednesday all Capitols in the country were under potential threat of terror with access restricted. Governor Kelly instructed Capitol staff to remain at home. I worked in my office all day on Tuesday; however, Wednesday I chose to work remotely. As I passed by the Capitol on Wednesday afternoon, I saw four people with signs on the southeast corner of the grounds. My gratitude goes to the security staff for the work they do.

In the week’s unfolding, the pace picked up as we debated several important issues including the Kansas response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Value Them Both Amendment to the Kansas Constitution. The House adopted biennial rules for 2021 and 2022. They are among the most transparent rules in history, adding clarity about who introduces bills in the House, and making it easier for people to track changes to bills.

On Tuesday, January 19, the Federal and State Affairs Committee heard testimony on the Value Them Both (HCR 5003) amendment to protect mothers and children. I support this critical legislation that allows Kansans the opportunity of a voice in oversight of the abortion industry. Kansas is subject to nearly unregulated abortion, a status established by the Kansas Supreme Court April 2019 ruling that identified a “right” to abortion in our constitution – a right that had previously not existed. If left unchecked, the Supreme Court decision will likely result in the striking down of all 23 bipartisan



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abortion control provisions passed since 1997, including parental notification for minors and the requirement of abortion clinic safety regulations. Value Them Both will put the issue before all voters on the August 2022 primary ballot. Passion exists on both sides of the aisle. I believe Kansans should have the right to be heard on this paramount issue of our time. Privileged to cast a “Yes” vote for this resolution in the House Chamber on Friday, January 22nd, I am pleased to say it passed, 86 – 38.

Incidentally, January 22nd marked the 48th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized abortion across the United States.

On Thursday I supported the passage of SB 14, a bill supporting Kansas’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 14, the Kansas Emergency Management Act (KEMA), extended the duration of HB 2016, which was established during the 2020 legislative session to give local elected officials control of final decisions on emergency measures. HB 2016 also allowed doctors and nurses to provide healthcare services using the latest technology, reduced regulations to help businesses begin recovery, created liability protections to shield businesses from frivolous COVID-19 lawsuits. Further, HB 2016 created access for Kansans to federal unemployment benefits and helped protect Kansans in long-term care facilities from threat of COVID infection, an unfortunate outgrowth of which has been the price of physical isolation from families and loved ones at critical times in the journey of a long-term care resident. A “one-size-fits-all” solution is not always that. I believe rural districts like 106 and surrounding areas are best served by local elected leaders and health professionals who can assess and adopt best-practice measures to protect freedom and promote health. Many provisions in HB 2016 were to sunset on January 26, 2021, so action was needed to extend this pandemic disaster management law. More permanent solutions to issues like increasing liability protections for nursing homes and businesses and fixing our unemployment system will be developed and added to our emergency management laws between now and the expiration of this current bill (SB 14) on March 31, 2021. I remain committed to local control, protecting frontline workers, assisting business owners affected by the economic impact of COVID, providing for needs of long-term care residents – including contact with family and loved ones, and making sure the people I represent have access to needed healthcare and applicable unemployment benefits during this pandemic.

On a related note, delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine to all areas appears to be all over the board. Call your local health department and get your name on the list if you want to get vaccinated. Share with them your age and any health issues that might bump you up the ladder for priority. That is the only information I have been able to glean on this issue. Representatives from urban areas are sharing the same frustration at the lack of a planned COVID vaccine rollout.



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The Ag committee was quiet this week. The Children & Seniors Committee continued to hear from organizations who serve those populations in need through foster care, adoption, senior meals, health care, abuse, etc.

You can follow the session on the Legislature's website: www.kslegislature.org. Click on the audio/video tab in the upper right corner.

The Legislative hotline is 1-800-432-3942 open 8-5 weekdays. I can be reached at lisa.moser@ks.house.gov; my Capitol office phone number is 785.296.7637; and my home phone number 785.456.3876. *Please leave a message if I don't answer.*
Thanks to all for your support and interest in the legislative process.

Regards,
Lisa M. Moser

