

Legislative Update
January 19, 2018
Prepared by: Dodie Wellshear, Ad Astra Government Relations

Little Action in Second Week

Two weeks in and legislative committees are slowly easing into policy work for the session. There is a near-pull over the Statehouse, as legislators grapple with the weighty issue of a constitutional response to the *Gannon V* school funding decision. Coming up with the response is just one part, the larger part being just *how* they will find the funds to meet the Supreme Court's adequacy test.

A bill that would require legislative approval for any substantial changes in the KanCare/Medicaid program, [SB 300](#), was introduced and sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee for hearings. Legislators have expressed frustration over decisions made by executive branch agencies that they believe do not fit legislative intent for the program.

Health committees in the House and Senate focused on adult care home issues, newborn protection, and just a few other hearings. There are bills awaiting introduction that we know will require our focus and efforts – telemedicine, an interstate APRN practice compact, opioid control and KanCare expansion being among those.

Family Doctor of the Day

KAFP is again sponsoring the Family Doctor of the Day (FDOD) program during the Kansas legislative session. Licensed physicians, including residents, volunteer to provide mostly-minor health needs to legislators and their staff. The Legislature highly values and appreciates access to these services, especially when so many are away from their hometown primary care physicians.

Appreciation goes to the following KAFP members, who provided FDOD care this past week: **Dr. Mike Kennedy**, Kansas City; **Dr. Jenica Wessels Harwood**, Salina; and **Dr. Jen McKenney**, Fredonia. There are still openings in the FDOD schedule, to those waiting to sign up! Please contact [Michelle Corkins](#).

Relevant Legislative Committee Meetings for the Week of Jan 22-26

Tuesday, Jan 23

9:30am, Senate Public Health & Welfare, Room 118-N

Hearing: [SB 195](#) – *Creating a suspended eligibility status for state Medicaid recipients*

1:30pm, House Health & Human Services, Room 546-S

Hearing: [HB 2472](#) – *Relating to organ donation, amending the uniform anatomical gift act*

Wednesday, Jan 24

9:30am, Senate Public Health & Welfare, Room 118-N

Hearing: [SB 282](#) – *Updating substances included in schedules I, II, and III of the uniform controlled substances act*

1:30pm, House Health & Human Services, Room 546-S

Informational briefing: *KDHE, State employee health plan first initiative with BCBS*

Thursday, Jan 25

1:30pm, House Health & Human Services, Room 546-S

Informational briefings:

- *Report on charity care*
- *KU Alzheimer's Research Center*