



# KANSAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Week Ending March 8, 2024**

The Legislature is in the final weeks of the 2024 Legislative Session and the House Appropriations Committee worked on its budget, finalizing it Thursday evening. The Senate Ways and Means Committee also finalized its version of the state's budget. Look to see both chambers vote on their respective budgets this week.

### **Office of Early Childhood HB 2785**

HB 2785 would create the Office of Early Childhood and centralize all of the State's work being done to serve children in their first five years of life. The **KC Chamber/Civic Council** supported HB 2785 in Commerce Committee. Data demonstrates that this unification of services will reduce costs, improve efficiency, and reduce burdens placed on families, providers, and businesses that are currently forced to navigate four different state early childhood agencies to receive the support they need.

States across the US, including Missouri, have discovered, placing all child care and early learning programs and procedures into a unified early childhood office allows for greater efficiency, fewer administrative hurdles for citizens to jump through, and increased citizen access to childcare programs and support. Studies have shown that a unified early childhood entity with a streamlined system should increase the number of providers enrolled in the program and provide Kansas parents with more options for affordable care.

The Commerce Committee plans to work on this legislation this upcoming week and **KC Chamber/Civic Council** will continue to support HB 2785 as it makes its way through the process.

### **World Cup Update:**

The House Appropriations Committee finalized its version of the budget and included \$10 million for the World Cup in FY'24 and another \$18 million in FY '25. Katherine Holland with KC 2026 was called in on Tuesday to follow up on questions from previous committee hearings. The **KC Chamber/Civic Council** will continue to follow and support this budget ask through the process.

### **Medicaid Expansion Hearings**

The House Public Health Committee has stated it will hold Medicaid Expansion Hearings before the end of session. We do believe that there will be short notice on committee hearings, and we want to be prepared. Please prepare written testimony now and send to Katrina so she can submit when the hearing date and time are announced. We want to have a significant volume of KS businesses calling for expansion.

Please send Medicaid Expansion testimony to: [kabraham@kcchamber.com](mailto:kabraham@kcchamber.com)

### **Hearings**

The hearing schedule for next week is linked below.

[https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023\\_24/chamber/calendars/](https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/chamber/calendars/)

To view House/Senate Legislative Hearings please visit the Kansas Legislature's YouTube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A)

**Key Upcoming Dates**

March 28th – Last Day for Non-Exempt Bills in Either House

April 5th – Drop Dead Day – First Adjournment

April 29th – Veto Session Begins

Thanks!

Katrina Abraham

[kabraham@kcchamber.com](mailto:kabraham@kcchamber.com)

**KC Chamber Kansas State Affairs Committee Meeting March 15th, 12-1:15 p.m.**

**Please note a change of venue for the March meeting**

**KC Chamber**

**World Trade Center Conference Room**

**30 W. Pershing Rd**

**Kansas City, MO**

Our speakers this month will be: Rep. Adam Turk, Rep. Brandon Woodard, Rep. Robyn Essex and  
Rep. JoElla Hoye