

SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



Visitors

Morgan Wills is interning with Representative Steven Johnson at the Capitol. I am so proud to have her representing the City of Liberal and USD 480.

USD 480 School Board Member Chris Jewell

I saw Todd Houseman, who graduated with my brother, at the Independent Telephone Company Reception. It's always good to see an old classmate.

Our Local Chamber was well represented at the capitol with Executive Director Rozelle Webb, President Rhonda Crawford, Mel Patterson, Dana Hibbs and County Commissioners C.J. Wettstein & Jim Rice.

Jack & Georgette Taylor were also here for the Chamber Gala. Jack and I Visited with Jerry Younger, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, about our highway projects and possible funding cuts due to budget issues. We were again promised that expansion and enhancement projects would proceed but maintenance projects would be put on the back burner pending available funds.

Mendy Wyckoff, Manager of Dillons

House Rules

There was a vigorous debate about changes to existing house rules. I voted for two rule changes that passed. One requires adjournment of the house



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between midnight and 8:00 am. This is based upon the rationale that good legislation and decisions don't usually happen at 3:00 am. The other restricted the bundling of more than two bills in a conference committee. Sometimes multiple bills are bundled together so legislators are forced to vote for a bill they don't like to get several passed they do like. The bundling bill is part of our joint rules with the Senate and will require their concurrence. I voted against was a rule change requiring a roll call vote of most motions in the house. 15 members of the house can force a roll call on any motion.

KPERS

I know many of you are concerned about the future of KPERS and depend, or are planning on it, for your retirement. I share your concerns. There are plans floating around the capitol on ways to adequately fund KPERS. One plan is to borrow \$1.5 billion with bonds and put it in KPERS to satisfy part of the unfunded liability. There is investment risk with this plan with and it may inhibit the State's ability to borrow for highways or other future needs.

Rescission Bill

The Governor's Rescission/allotment plan HB2133 reduces expenditures by \$66.4 million, transfers another \$158.5 million from the state highway fund and has other various sweeps of funds and transfers for a total of around \$280 million. The legislature is being told the state could run out of money the second or third week of February. There are not many places to cut in the budget to find \$280 million before the end of February.

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at any time. My new office assistant is Jane Clouse, she is retired from the

Federal Highway Administration so she knows the importance of good roads. At the Capitol my office is 167-W, the phone number is 785-296-7655 and my email is shannon.francis@house.ks.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. The longer I'm in Topeka the more I'm convinced that there is no place like home.

Shannon Francis

125th District Representative
Kansas House of Representatives

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