

SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



It is always difficult when you hear about a catastrophe at home and you are stuck in Topeka. The Highway Patrol informed me immediately about the Groendyke explosion. My prayers go out to the injured and their families. I also want to give thanks to our first responders and the bravery they show every time they walk into a situation full of unknowns and danger. My prayers for a speedy recovery also go out to our Emergency Preparedness Director, Greg Standard, who was injured in the aftermath of the tornado earlier this winter.



It was a pleasure to have Celeste Donavon, Dean of Student Services, Dr. Ken Trzaska, President, and Jevyn Voss, Student Body President of SCCC/ATS in Topeka for the State of the State. It was great visiting with them about the importance maintaining funding for Seward County Community College/ATS.

At the Legislature we hit the ground running. The Alvarez & Marsal efficiency study was presented to the legislature. The Governor presented his State of the State priorities

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At the Legislature

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Useful Resources

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[The Kansas Legislature](#)

[Legislative Bill Reports](#)

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Useful Phone Numbers

Medicaid Fraud

1-866-551-6328

Welfare Fraud Hotline

800-432-3913

and the Governor's Administration presented spending adjustments to address the budget deficits forecasted for fiscal years 2106 and 2017.

The Alvarez & Marsal Efficiency Study

The recommendations of this study include 105 recommendations which cumulatively could provide \$2.04 billion in benefits to the state over the next five years. The 265 page study recommendations will be split up among the legislative sub-budget committees to determine which recommendations can and should be implemented. Here is a link to the report:

[KansasStatewideEfficiencyInterimRpt2016Jan12.pdf](#)

Below are some of the larger dollar recommendations:

- Hire 54 revenue officers and 14 auditors and reorganize staff
- Move all schools to the state health insurance plan
- Consolidate purchasing by schools with a statewide initiative
- Centralize purchase of goods, services, leasing, and insurance by state agencies

I will be closely monitoring the implementation of this report. It is important for state government to use our tax dollars efficiently, but bigger is not always better and one size does not fit all.

Governor's State of the State

The Governor began his speech with a recap of the successes of his administration. His priorities for the next year include:

- A constitutional amendment changing the way Supreme Court Justices are nominated for his selection.
- Speed up the implementation of the tax lid on local government.
- Create a task force to address the problems of health care delivery in rural Kansas

Department On Aging
800-432-3535

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline
800-922-5330

Child & Family Services
888-369-4777

Consumer Protection
800-423-2310

Crime Tip Hotline
800-252-8477

Crime Victim Assistance
800-828-9745

Gov- Brownback
800-748-4408

Highway Road Conditions
511 (in Kansas)

Housing Hotline
800-752-4422

KanCare Assistance
866-305-5147

Kansas Lottery
800-544-9467

Legislative Hotline
800-432-3924

Mental Health Services
888-582-3759

School Safety Hotline
877-626-8203

- Protect us from terrorists posing as refugees
- Design an education funding system that provides bonuses to exceptional teachers and puts more money into instruction.

There was no mention of a long term solution to our budget crisis. A complete copy of the Governor's speech can be found on the internet at [Wichita's 1330 KNSS - Full Transcript: Kansas State Of The State Speech.](#)

Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Report

To make the 2017 budget balance, a number of cuts amounting to over \$105.7 million were presented. There were also additional transfers from dedicated funds proposed such as an additional transfer of 25 million from KDOT. Another transfer mentioned was moving \$44.1 million from the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) to the State General Fund. None of the CIF spending appears to be cut but this may be a move to allow it to be cut easier if our deficits worsen. The summary can be found on the internet at [2017 Budget Overview--01-13-2016.pdf.](#)

Legislative Coffee

I will be having my next Legislative Coffee Saturday, January 23rd at 10 am at Spencer Browne's Coffee House. Please come by and let me know your thoughts.

Constituent Services

Please reach out to me regarding issues with our state government that I can help with. I do ask that you send the request to me by email. My email address is: Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov. This insures that I get the information correctly to the agency we are working with.

"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot

Social Security
800-772-1213

Taxpayer Assistance
785-368-8222

Tax Refund Status
800-894-0318

Unclaimed Property
800-432-0386

Unemployment Insurance
800-292-6333

Vital Statistics
785-296-1400

Voter Registration
800-262-8683

Worker's Comp
800-332-0353

be understood.” (James Madison)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Please contact me anytime. My email is: Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov.



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Paid for by Shannon Francis for State Representative, Lisa Hatcher Treasurer