



Dear Neighbor,

This week the Special Committee on Urban Issues which I chair heard House Bills 930, 361 and 326 sponsored respectively by Representatives Ashley Bland Manlove, Raychel Proudie and LaKeySha Bosley.

These bills are all known as the Missouri CROWN Act (Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair). The committee considered testimony from dozens of people supporting this legislation, and one young lady's testimony in particular regarding discrimination she faced nearly brought me to tears.

These bills differ in some ways, but they all prohibit discrimination on the basis of hair texture and hairstyles traditionally worn primarily by people of African descent in educational institutions that receive or benefit from state financial assistance or state student financial aid.

I hope my committee will recommend a committee substitute that combines the best features of all three of these similar bills for passage by the full House when we meet next week.

A federal version of this legislation passed the U.S. House in 2020 and 2022 but has never passed the Senate. Twenty states have passed their own versions of the CROWN Act, and Kansas City and St. Louis City also have passed ordinances on the subject.

This week I was happy to see the Missouri House overwhelmingly pass House Committee Substitute for House Bill 640 (that I sponsored) and House Bill 729 (that Representative Chris Brown sponsored) to remove the woefully outdated salary caps in state law for the Kansas City police chief and KCPD officers of all other ranks.

This vital public safety legislation also removes discriminatory language in state law that prohibits hiring a chief who is more than 60 years of age.

This legislation passed the House nearly unanimously, with only three representatives voting against it and three others voting present. The vote was 151-3-3.

The House also approved an emergency clause for the legislation (making it effective as soon as it is signed into law by the governor) which

noted “immediate action is necessary to maintain a competitive pay scale to aid in recruitment and retention of Kansas City police officers”.

I greatly appreciate the bipartisan support for this essential public safety legislation by my House colleagues and by the KCMO City Council and Mayor Quinton Lucas, the KCMO Police Department and the business, civic, faith-based and neighborhood groups that are part of the Public Safety Coalition organized by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

I hope the Missouri Senate will act quickly on this legislation so our city will no longer keep losing some of our best officers to surrounding jurisdictions that have higher salaries and less dangerous duties.

This week I also co-sponsored House Bill 909 that would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources from issuing a permit for the operation of a landfill if the site is located within one mile of an adjoining municipality without its approval. This is a bill that has support on both sides of the aisle and was voted out of the Local Government Committee unanimously. I look forward to supporting this bill on the House floor.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to support or oppose, please email me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov.

Here are my current House committee appointments:

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chair
Subcommittee on Appropriations - General
Administration
Consent and House Procedure
Crime Prevention and Public Safety
Special Committee on Election Contests
Joint Committee on Legislative Research

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Racheal Cunningham at Racheal.Cunningham@house.mo.gov.

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless.

Yours in Service,
Mark A. Sharp



Earlier this week I explained the urgent need to remove outdated salary caps for the Kansas City police chief and officers of all other ranks that are currently in state law to aid in recruiting and retaining Kansas City police officers during House debate on House Committee Substitute for House Bills 640 & 729. The legislation passed overwhelmingly and is now awaiting consideration in the Senate.



I had the opportunity to participate in the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl Victory parade last week. It was such a pleasure to be in the parade and see all of the joy the Kansas City Chiefs bring to this city. This photo was taken in front of Union Station where the parade route ended with my colleague Representative Michael Johnson.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2023

SENATE LIMITS TEACHING ABOUT RACISM

The Missouri Senate on Feb. 14 voted 21-12 in favor of omnibus education legislation including provisions imposing significant restrictions on how public elementary and secondary schools teach about past and present racism in society.

The bill now awaits consideration in the House of Representatives.

When the Senate originally debated Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bills 4, 42 & 89 on the first day of Black History Month, it sparked fierce opposition from Black senators who branded the measure as a blatant attempt to suppress unpleasant facts about the historic mistreatment of Black Americans and other ethnic minorities.

As a compromise, the sponsor agreed to slightly soften the measure in a 2nd Senate Substitute, but critics contend the bill is still designed to minimize teaching about both racism in America and the complete and accurate history of traditionally marginalized ethnic groups.

It passed on a largely party-line vote with all 10 Senate Democrats voting against it. Two Republicans opposed the bill because they said its restrictions on such

instruction didn't go far enough.

The bill is part of a nationwide effort to ban the teaching of “critical race theory” (CRT), a concept normally discussed at the graduate or undergraduate college level that examines racism’s continuing effect on American institutions. It isn’t taught in K-12 public schools in Missouri.

The original version of the legislation specifically banned CRT, although it didn’t define it. The revised version removed the reference to CRT but retained the restrictions on race-related instruction.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL ADVANCES

The Missouri Senate is expected to move quickly to finalize \$627.15 million in supplemental spending for the current fiscal year after the House of Representatives on Feb. 14 voted 151-2 to approve the measure. I voted yes.

Gov. Mike Parson wants lawmakers to send him the bill as soon as possible so that an 8.7% pay increase for state workers can take effect March 1.

The bill includes additional spending authority for the final four months of the 2023 fiscal year which ends June 30.

While the bulk of the spending authority in the measure is for the pay hikes and related benefits and

costs, House Committee Substitute for House Bill 14 also includes \$275 million for disaster aid grants, \$148.71 million for matching grants to federally qualified health centers, \$20 million to bolster security at local schools and \$3 million for the Wood Energy Tax Credit Program, as well as funding for other programs.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to hear the bill in the coming days. If the Senate passes HCSHB 14 without changes, it will go to the governor to be signed into law.

HOUSE TARGETS VEHICLE CHARGING MANDATES

Local governments would be forced to pick up the tab for requiring businesses and property developers to install electric vehicle charging stations in their parking lots under legislation the Missouri House of Representatives approved Feb. 16 on a vote of 105-36. I voted no.

The bill now Awaits Senate consideration.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 184 is a response to a 2021 St. Louis County ordinance requiring developers to install electric vehicle charging stations. The county eased the requirement the following year to apply only to parking lots with 30 or more spaces after complaints that the original ordinance imposed too onerous a burden.

Supporters of HCSHB 184 say it will prevent local governments from imposing costly unfunded mandates on businesses and property owners. Opponents of the measure say it interferes with local control and ignores the growing need for charging stations as drivers increasingly switch to electric vehicles.

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COUNCILWOMAN



BOB KENDRICK
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BASEBALL MUSEUM



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JUICERY



GLENN NORTH
HOST/ MODERATOR
KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

SCREENING HELD AT THE GEM THEATER

1615 E 18TH ST, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108



ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023
2:00PM

135th Street in Martin City

No entry fees to participate

2023 PARADE THEME:
HAPPY GO LUCKY!

Entries are strongly encouraged to incorporate the "Happy Go Lucky" theme into their entry to have the best chance of winning a prize.

Parade Entry Prizes

1st Place = \$300

2nd Place = \$200

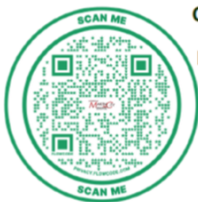
3rd Place = \$100

Corporate Sponsorships Are Also Available!

Find more information and registration form at
[Martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/](https://martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/)

For questions call (816) 308-1023 or
email manager@martincity.org

Deadline for entries is February 26, 2023





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Understanding and Accessing MISSOURI MEDICAID

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



1

\$1,481

2

\$2,003

3

\$2,525

4

\$3,048

5

\$3,570

6

\$4,092

How do I apply?

GOOD NEWS!

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

Online:

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

By Phone:

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

By Mail or Email:

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

Family Support Division
615 E 13th St
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov

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South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call

816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 10 a.m. until food runs out the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or
ideas!