

# **Legislative Session Report**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Message from the CEO	2
Session Priorities	3
Priority Bills	4
Budget Takeaways	9
Next Steps	10
Conclusion	11
Acknowledgements	12

# INTRODUCTION

The LeadingAge Kansas Government Affairs team worked with legislators on key pieces of legislation aligned with our 2026 legislative priorities, including introduction of a cleaner Senate bill addressing nurse faculty educational requirements. Throughout the session, LeadingAge Kansas provided testimony nearly 13 times across 8 different bills and informational hearings before various legislative committees. The bills and hearings on which LeadingAge Kansas provided testimony included:

- HB2370 - [House Health and Human Services](#)
- HB2457 - [House Taxation](#)
- HB2520 - [House Health and Human Services](#), [Senate Public Health and Welfare](#)
- HB2718 - [House Health and Human Services](#)
- SB181 - [House Appropriations](#)
- SB334 - [Senate Commerce](#), [House Commerce](#)
- SB363 - [Senate Committee on Government Efficiency](#), [House Welfare Reform](#)
- SB522 - [Senate Public Health and Welfare](#) (page 17)
- HB2457 - [House Social Services Budget](#)
- SB315 - [Senate Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee](#)

In addition, we provided informational testimony to:

- [Robert G. \(Bob\) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight](#)

And one of our very own members, Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community, offered a presentation on Stay Your Way to the House Social Services Budget Committee to give them an idea of what the first Continuing Care at Home model looks like in Kansas.

LeadingAge Kansas hosted our third annual joint Aging Services Day at the Kansas Capitol with Kansas Healthcare Association and Kansas Adult Care Executives, with over 100 attendees and 12 sponsors! We also held our second LeadingVoice Advocacy Bootcamp with even more participants than the year before further expanding our grassroots advocacy which fed into participation at Aging Services Day. We are happy to see more dedicated advocates engage their legislators.

This report is a guide for what LeadingAge Kansas set out to accomplish during the 2026 legislative session and all that we achieved. If you have any questions or feedback for us, please reach out to our Director of Government Affairs Kylee Childs at [kylee@leadingagekansas.org](mailto:kylee@leadingagekansas.org).

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The 2026 Legislative Session was another strong and impactful year for aging services providers in Kansas. In a challenging environment shaped by budget constraints and complex policy debates, we achieved meaningful progress on key priorities and continued to elevate the voice of providers across the continuum of care.

A major win this session was passage of SB 334, which advanced important efforts to strengthen workforce pipelines. At a time when workforce shortages remain one of the most urgent challenges in aging services, this legislation represents a step forward in building more sustainable pathways into the field.

We also worked to address growing concerns around overregulation and the need for practical, balanced policy. On issues such as dementia care legislation and involuntary discharge proviso language, we focused on ensuring policies protected residents while also reflecting operational realities. Through engagement and compromise, we helped shape more workable outcomes in several areas.

This session reinforced a key principle: Kansas cannot simply adopt policies from other states without considering our unique system, workforce, and provider landscape. We will continue advocating for Kansas-specific solutions that strengthen care without stifling innovation or adding unnecessary burden.

Throughout the session, LeadingAge Kansas remained grounded in our identity as a transparent, mission-driven organization focused on quality care, provider support, and the needs of older Kansans. Our advocacy continues to be driven by data, lived experience, and a commitment to practical solutions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement. It is an honor to represent you, and I am proud of what we accomplished together this year.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Monger



*“We will continue advocating for Kansas-specific solutions that strengthen care without stifling innovation or adding unnecessary burden”*

# SESSION PRIORITIES

Each Fall, prior to the start of session, the Board of Directors, CEO, and Director of Government Affairs identify priorities or issues of importance to address during the legislative session. This year, there were nine priorities of interest that guided advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session.

## 1 Lead

---

LeadingAge Kansas placed an emphasis on leading efforts to fully fund our aging services continuum of care by focusing on a Medicaid rebase and add-on for nursing facilities, a rebase for PACE providers, and increases to HCBS/FE waiver services for enrollment slots due to growing participation.

## 2 Engage

---

The Government Affairs team worked hard to move three bills related to workforce investments for aging services, establish staffing agency standards in Kansas, and stay engaged in conversations for survey agency reform within the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

## 3 Monitor

---

Other discussions the team made sure to monitor and be part of the conversation when needed included oral health and senior nutrition programs, involuntary discharge appeal rights and dementia care licensure for state licensed only facilities, as well as pharmacy provider choice fees.

# PRIORITY POLICY BILLS

Below are the bills introduced or sponsored on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas during the 2025–2026 biennium. These measures reflect key association priorities identified by members and pursued through the legislative process. Included is a summary of each bill and its final status.

## **SB 334 (Nursing Workforce Development-Instructor Requirements)**

SB 334 updates Kansas nursing workforce development laws by requiring nursing instructors to hold a nursing degree at least one level higher than the program in which they teach. The bill allows the Kansas State Board of Nursing to grant exemptions when schools face legitimate instructor shortages or hiring hardships.

Requested by: Senator Stephen Owens on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas in 2026 session.

Status: Allowed to become law without signature.

## **HB 2184 (Supplemental Nursing Services Regulation)**

HB 2184 would have created new regulations for supplemental nursing services agencies and healthcare worker platforms that place temporary healthcare staff in facilities. The bill required annual registration with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, verification of worker licensure and training, background checks, malpractice and workers compensation coverage, and quarterly reporting on amounts charged to facilities and paid to workers. It also prohibited agencies from restricting workers from accepting permanent employment with facilities.

Requested by: Representative Mike King on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas in 2025 session.

Status: No hearing. The bill did not advance out of committee and is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

## **HB 2163 (Aging Services Preceptor Tax Incentive)**

HB 2163 proposed the Preceptor Income Tax Incentive Act, creating a temporary state tax credit for uncompensated precepting by licensed nursing home administrators, registered nurses, and registered dietitians training students in eligible Kansas programs. The credit would have provided \$250 for every 40 hours of precepting, capped at \$750 per taxpayer annually, with a statewide annual cap of \$50,000. The program would have applied to tax years 2025–2029.

Requested by: Representative Howerton on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas in 2025 session.

Status: Passed out of committee but received no further action. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

Below are additional bills LeadingAge Kansas monitored or testified on during the 2025–2026 biennium. These measures impacted aging services providers and the residents they serve across the continuum of care. Included is a summary of the legislation and each bill's final status.

### **HB 2528 (Kansas State Board of Nursing Reform)**

HB 2528 reforms laws governing the Kansas State Board of Nursing by voiding certain past disciplinary actions tied to administrative issues such as late renewals or lapsed licenses rather than nursing practice. The bill creates a 30-day grace period for late license renewals, limits what may be considered “unprofessional conduct” to matters directly related to nursing practice, and adds requirements for renewal reminders and fee caps. It also establishes anti-retaliation protections for nurses who file complaints against the board, requires senate confirmation of board members, and mandates refunds for duplicate or excess payments.

Requested by: Representative Pickert

Status: Signed into law by the Governor.

### **HB 2532 (Impaired Provider Program and Nursing Discipline Updates)**

HB 2532 would have expanded the authority of the Kansas State Board of Nursing by creating a voluntary impaired provider program for nurses experiencing substance use, mental health, or behavioral health issues affecting safe practice. Participants who successfully completed treatment and monitoring could avoid formal disciplinary action in many cases.

The bill also broadened disciplinary authority for criminal offenses, patient abandonment, practicing with a lapsed license, examination misconduct, and failure to comply with board orders. It established additional civil fines, revised license reinstatement standards, and allowed disciplinary action to be deferred for some impaired providers participating in approved treatment programs.

Requested by: Representative Oropeza on behalf of the Kansas State Board of Nursing

Status: Introduced but never received a hearing. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

### **HB 2591 (Financial Exploitation Protection and Virtual Currency Regulation)**

HB 2591 authorizes financial institutions to report suspected financial exploitation of adult account holders and allows temporary holds on suspicious transactions while concerns are investigated, including notification to a designated trusted contact. It also establishes the Virtual Currency Kiosk Consumer Protection Act, creating consumer protections and regulatory requirements for cryptocurrency kiosks such as Bitcoin ATMs.

Requested by: Cale Beam on behalf of the Kansas Credit Union Association

Status: Signed into law by the Governor.

Additional monitored legislation included:

### **HB 2520 (Home Plus Facility Capacity Expansion)**

HB 2520 amends the Kansas Adult Care Home Licensure Act by increasing the maximum capacity of “home plus” facilities from 12 to 16 residents, including home plus units located within larger adult care homes. Facilities serving more than 12 residents after July 1, 2026, must maintain written plans addressing resident care needs, emergency response, and health and safety protections at the higher capacity level.

Requested by: Representative Schreiber

Status: Signed into law by the Governor.

### **HB 2370 (Assisted Living Dementia Care Licensing Requirements)**

HB 2370 would have created a voluntary dementia care certification for assisted living facilities offering specialized memory care services. Certified facilities would have been required to meet staffing, leadership, training, and activity programming standards focused on dementia care, while facilities without certification could not advertise specialized dementia or memory care services. The bill also established requirements for relinquishing certification and transitioning affected residents.

Requested by: Representative Buehler on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association

Status: Received a hearing on February 12, 2026, but did not advance out of committee. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

### **HB 2718 (Adult Care Home Pharmacy Choice Protection Act)**

HB 2718, the Adult Care Home Pharmacy Choice Protection Act, would have guaranteed adult care home residents the right to choose their own pharmacy regardless of the facility’s medication distribution system. The bill prohibited facilities from charging penalties, offering incentives, or otherwise steering residents toward a specific pharmacy and barred certain medication repackaging charges from being passed on to residents.

Requested by: Haely Ordoyne, Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Status: Received a hearing on February 16, 2026, but did not advance out of committee. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

Additional monitored legislation included:

### **HB 2536 (Guardian Training Requirements for Certain Adults)**

HB 2536 updates Kansas guardianship law by requiring certain proposed guardians for adults with cognitive impairments, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or similar conditions to complete an approved training program before appointment. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services must establish approved training standards and maintain a list of qualifying programs covering topics such as aging, dementia, communication strategies, and resident rights. Courts may waive the training requirement if deemed in the respondent's best interest.

Requested by: Jamie Gideon on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association

Status: Signed into law by the Governor.

### **HB 2609 (Supported Decision-Making Agreements Act)**

HB 2609 creates a Supported Decision-Making Agreements Act allowing adults to voluntarily designate a supporter to assist with decisions in areas such as healthcare, finances, housing, and employment while retaining full legal rights and autonomy. The bill requires written agreements outlining duties and fiduciary responsibilities, while prohibiting supporters from making decisions or acting on behalf of the individual. It also clarifies that participation does not imply incapacity or justify guardianship and provides liability protections for third parties acting in good faith.

Requested by: Morgan Shipman, on behalf of the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas

Status: While HB 2609 did not advance independently, its contents were ultimately inserted into the conference committee report for **SB 84**, which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

### **HB 2720 (Kansas Surrogate Medical Decisions Act)**

HB 2720 establishes a statutory hierarchy for surrogate medical decision-making when a patient lacks capacity, prioritizing court-appointed guardians, healthcare agents, designated surrogates, and then a ranked list of family members and close contacts. It requires decisions to follow the patient's known wishes or best interests and includes safeguards for end-of-life care, provider conscience protections, and liability immunity for good-faith actions.

Requested by: Tara Mays on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association

Status: Introduced on February 5, 2026, but did not receive a hearing. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

Additional monitored legislation included:

### **SB 363 (Medicaid Eligibility and Public Assistance Reform)**

SB 363 would have significantly revised eligibility and verification requirements across Kansas public assistance programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and child care subsidies. It required expanded interagency data matching across employment, tax, vital records, corrections, and other databases to verify ongoing eligibility, while tightening rules such as limiting self-attestation, increasing frequency of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations, and restricting retroactive coverage. It also required enhanced reporting to federal agencies to detect duplicate enrollment across states. The bill essentially codified Medicaid changes from H.R. 1 into state law.

Requested by: Senator Erickson

Status: While SB 363 did not advance independently, its contents were ultimately inserted into the conference committee report for **HB 2731**, which was passed by the Legislature through a veto override after being vetoed by the Governor.

### **HB 2457 (Property Tax Freeze and Healthcare Property Tax Exemption Changes)**

HB 2457 would have created a property tax freeze for homeowners age 65 and older, capping their residential property taxes at a base-year amount with no increases allowed even if property values rise. It also would have removed property tax exemptions for certain 501(c)(3) healthcare organizations if comparable taxable healthcare services were available in the same or adjacent counties, with determinations made by county appraisers and appeals decided by county commissions.

Requested by: Representative Bryce on behalf of Representatives Helwig and Roth

Status: Received a hearing on February 9, 2026, but did not advance out of committee. The bill is dead for the 2025–2026 biennium unless reintroduced in 2027.

### **HB 2043 (Property Tax Increase Petition Process)**

HB 2043 would have allowed voters to petition against local property tax increases that exceeded 3% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Supporters argued the bill would provide taxpayers additional oversight of local tax increases, while opponents raised concerns about impacts on local government funding and operations.

Carried by: Senator Tyson and Representative A. Smith

Status: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor, who cited concerns regarding the proposal's long-term sustainability and encouraged additional collaboration with local governments on property tax reform. Related constitutional amendment proposals concerning property valuation also failed to advance before adjournment.



# NEXT STEPS

## Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will assist in discussions on outstanding bills to prepare for 2027. Want to join? Message [Kylee](#).

## Election Year Events

LeadingAge Kansas will be co-hosting a few candidate meet and greet events throughout the state with other healthcare associations as well as a gubernatorial and statewide races forum at the Fall Conference in September.

## Legislative Lunches

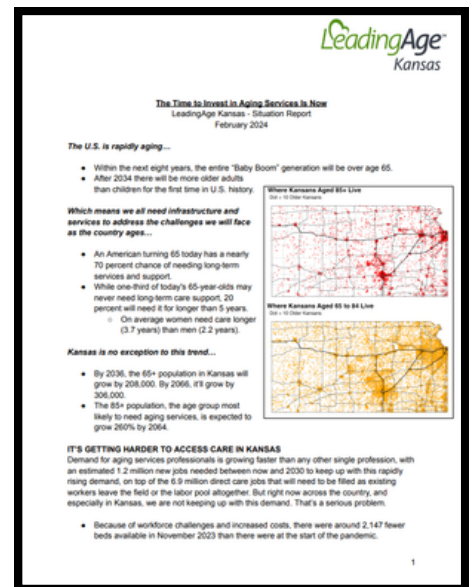
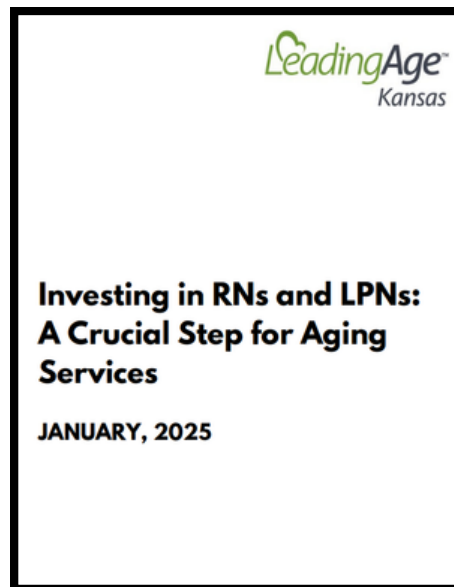
Join us in your regional location in October 2026 to have lunch with legislators and House candidates and prep them on our priorities for the start of the new biennium.

## LeadingVoice Advocacy Bootcamp

Participate in the LeadingVoice Advocacy Bootcamp to learn more about the legislative process and testifying, then put your skills to use at Aging Services Day at the Capitol.

## ADVOCACY RESOURCES

Be sure to check out all the advocacy resources located on the LeadingAge Kansas website. These resources can help you with how to schedule coffee with your legislator, write a letter to your congressman, understand the legislative process, and be an effective grassroots advocate.



# CONCLUSION

LeadingAge Kansas continues to be the leading advocate for effective policy on behalf of our members across the state.

## PRIORITIES

We continue to lead, engage, and monitor important member issues.

- 
- Funding
  - Staffing agencies & workforce
  - Over regulation

## ADVOCACY

We continue to provide testimony and form trusted relationships.

- 
- Aging Services Day
  - 13+ Legislative Testimonies
  - Over \$128M in funding

## NEXT STEPS

Get involved during the interim to amp up our grassroots efforts.

- 
- Attend election year events
  - Attend the fall legislative lunches in October
  - Sign up for the Advocacy Bootcamp

As the policy landscape continues to evolve, LeadingAge Kansas remains committed to advancing practical, provider-informed solutions that strengthen services and supports for older Kansans across the continuum of care.

Our mission: To assist members in providing outstanding services and supports to older Kansans in a place they call home, through advocacy, education, and networking.

Our vision: LeadingAge Kansas will be the recognized leader, trusted voice, and knowledge resource for aging services in Kansas.

# Acknowledgements

This year's session accomplishments and report would not be possible without the support of:

- Our Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors for guiding our session priorities.
- Our colleagues and partners who assisted with testimony and presentations including:
  - Jess Easterwood, Larksfield Place
  - Holly Noble, Attica Long Term Care
  - Tonya Keim, Bluestem Communities
  - Jericho Taylor, Meadowlark Hills
  - Nathan Spencer, Sunshine Meadows
- All who contributed or supported our legislative efforts this session.

## Contact



Kylee Childs  
Director of Government Affairs  
217 SE 8th Ave, Topeka, KS 66603  
O 785.670.8051  
C 785.639.2879  
[kylee@leadingagekansas.org](mailto:kylee@leadingagekansas.org)



[www.leadingagekansas.org](http://www.leadingagekansas.org)  
[LeadingAge Kansas on Facebook](#)