

# **Legislative Session Report**

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# INTRODUCTION

The LeadingAge Kansas Government Affairs team worked with legislators to get sponsorship on 4 different pieces of legislation aligned with our priorities and provided testimony nearly 17 times on 11 different bills or informational hearings before various committees. The bills LeadingAge Kansas provided testimony on were:

- HB2070 - [House Health and Human Services & Senate Public Health and Welfare](#)
- HB2163 - [House Taxation - Watch verbal testimony](#)
- HB2248 - [House Higher Education Budget](#)
- HB2249 - [House Health and Human Services & Senate Public Health and Welfare - Watch verbal testimony](#)
- HB2294 - [House Commerce](#)
- HB2316 - [House Health and Human Services - Watch verbal testimony](#)
- HB2339 - [House Commerce - Watch verbal testimony](#)
- HB2392 - [House Commerce - Watch verbal testimony](#)
- SB44 - [Senate Education & House Education](#)
- SB82 - [Senate Public Health and Welfare & House Health and Human Services - Watch verbal testimony for Senate & House](#)
- SB88 - [Senate Public Health and Welfare & House Health and Human Services](#)
- KDADS Budget - [House Social Services Budget - Watch verbal testimony](#)

In addition, we provided informational testimony before:

- [Robert G. \(Bob\) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight](#)
- [House Social Services Budget on Contract Nursing Regulations by State - Watch here](#)

LeadingAge Kansas continued co-sponsoring Monday evening social events to increase networking opportunities with partner associations, lobbyists, and legislators. We hosted our second annual joint Aging Services Day at the Kansas Capitol with Kansas Healthcare Association and Kansas Adult Care Executives, despite a snow day and rescheduling. Thank you to our dedicated members who remained flexible! We also held our first ever LeadingVoice Advocacy Bootcamp and LeadingVoice Lite Workshop for Frontline Staff which fed into participation at Aging Services Day. We are happy to see more dedicated grassroots advocates engage their legislators.

This report is a guide for what LeadingAge Kansas set out to accomplish during the 2025 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 2025 Legislative Session was short, fast-paced, and incredibly productive for aging services providers in Kansas. In fewer than 90 calendar days, our advocacy efforts helped make meaningful progress—despite the broader state landscape of budget reductions and time constraints. This momentum is a direct result of the incredible energy and commitment of our grassroots advocates.

We continued to strengthen our presence at the Capitol, showing up in force—even when the Kansas weather tried to get in our way. Aging Services Day 2025 may have been rescheduled due to snow, but it didn't stop our members from making their voices heard. Your presence and persistence paid off. Lawmakers listened, and aging services were once again recognized with critical investments across our continuum of care. This includes increased funding for nursing facilities, HCBS/FE waiver services, PACE, and hospice—even as other areas of the state budget saw cuts.

We also launched new tools and trainings to build a deeper bench of advocates. Our inaugural LeadingVoice Advocacy Bootcamp and Frontline Workshop equipped dozens of providers and staff with the skills to influence policy—and many of them put those skills to work at the Capitol this year.

Several of our priority bills received hearings or informational sessions, laying a strong foundation to build on in 2026, the second year of this biennium. We're not starting from scratch—we're starting with momentum.

Thank you for the work you do every day to serve older Kansans, their families, and their communities. It's an honor to advocate on your behalf. Together, we are shaping a future where aging services are recognized, resourced, and respected.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Monger



"This momentum is a direct result of the incredible energy and commitment of our grassroots advocates."

# 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 seven priorities of interest that guided advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session.

## 1 Lead

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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, a payment cut elimination for hospice providers, and maintain increases to HCBS/FE waiver services from prior year's budgets.

## 2 Engage

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The Government Affairs team worked hard to introduce four bills related to workforce investments for aging services, establish staffing agency standards in Kansas, and begin conversations on Fire Marshal reform as it relates to life safety code for adult care home and I/DD providers.




## 3 Monitor

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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 for assisted living residents, as well as minimum staffing ratios for long term care.




# PRIORITY POLICY BILLS

There were numerous bills monitored by LeadingAge Kansas this session. With it being the first year of the biennium, there are several bills that were just introduced and never moved forward in the process. We will continue to monitor this list along with others introduced in the 2026 session. The following bills are ones of interest to members from this session.

 Bill Number/Requester	 Bill Subject	 Outcome
<u>SB3</u> Sponsor: Legislative Post Audit Committee Committee: Senate Public Health and Welfare Related to <u>HB2002</u>	Requiring the department of health and environment to audit hospital compliance with the lay caregiver act and report the results of such audit to the legislature	The bill had a hearing in February, but did not move forward in the process. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.
<u>SB19</u> Sponsor: Senator Michael Murphy, R-34th Committee: Senate Oublic Health and Welfare	Enacting the conscientious right to refuse act to prohibit discrimination against individuals who refuse medical care and creating a civil cause of action based on such discrimination and revoking the authority of the secretary of health and environment to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties	The bill had a hearing in February, but did not move forward in the process. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.
<u>Sub for SB29</u> Sponsor: Senator Michael Murphy, R-34th Committee: Senate Public Health and Welfare	Removing the authority of the county or joint board of health or local health officer to prohibit public gatherings when necessary for the control of infectious or contagious disease	While the bill started out with a larger scope, it was narrowed down and eventually passed the legislative body. It was vetoed by the Governor, but a veto override was successful and is now law.
<u>SB41</u> Sponsor: Senator Chase Blasi, R-26th Committee: Senate Public Health and Welfare	Adding advanced practice registered nurses to the definition of healthcare provider for purposes of the healthcare provider insurance availability act	The bill had a hearing in February, but did not move forward in the process. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.
<u>SB24</u> Sponsor: Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Commission Committee: Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance	Expanding the postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate in the Kansas promise scholarship program and increasing the maximum annual appropriation limit.	The bill passed out of the legislature and included raising the cap on the Promise Scholarship Program from \$10M to \$15M. The Governor vetoed the bill on April 25, and since the legislature adjourned on April 11, there was no opportunity to reconsider.




# PRIORITY POLICY BILLS CONTINUED

There were numerous bills monitored by LeadingAge Kansas this session. With it being the second year of the biennium, there were bills that received continued monitoring from the 2023 legislative session as well as new ones introduced this session. The following bills are ones of interest to members from this session.

 Bill Number/Requester	 Bill Subject	 Outcome
<p><u>SB50</u>            Sponsor: Fred Patton, Kansas Board of Regents            Committee: Senate Education            Related to <u>Sub for SB281</u></p>	<p>Establishing uniform interest rate provisions for service scholarship programs administered by the Kansas board of regents that have repayment obligations as a part of the terms and conditions of such programs and authorizing the Kansas board of regents to recover the costs of collecting such repayment obligations</p>	<p>A uniform interest rate of 5.0 percent per year for all repayments for any scholarship, grant, or other financial aid program requiring repayment. It was passed by the legislative body and signed into law by the Governor.</p>
<p><u>SB88</u>            Sponsor: Senator Chase Blasi, R-26<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Alzheimer's Association            Committee: Senate Public Health and Welfare</p>	<p>Requiring the state long-term care ombudsman and regional ombudsman to receive training in memory care</p>	<p>The bill, which LeadingAge Kansas provided proponent testimony on, passed the legislative body and was signed into law by the Governor.</p>
<p><u>SB132</u>            Sponsor: Senator Tory Marie Blew, R-33rd            Committee: Senate Federal and State Affairs            Related to <u>Sub for HB2294</u> and <u>HB2045</u></p>	<p>Establishing certain license fees and training requirements, creating a process for day care facility licensees to apply for temporary waiver of certain statutory requirements and authorizing the secretary to develop and operate pilot programs to increase child care facility availability or capacity, transferring certain child care programs to the Kansas office of early childhood and separating licensing duties between the secretary for health and environment and the executive director of early childhood</p>	<p>This bill was just introduced and never acted on. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.</p>
<p><u>SB224</u>            Sponsor: Senator Owens, R-31<sup>st</sup>, on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas            Committee: Senate Assessment and Taxation            Related to <u>HB2163</u></p>	<p>Providing for the preceptor income tax incentive act, establishing an income tax credit for nursing home administrators, registered nurses and registered dietitians that serve as a community-based faculty preceptor in adult care homes and medical care facilities by providing personalized instruction, training and supervision for students</p>	<p>This bill did not receive a hearing due to time constraints. However, it is still alive for the 2026 session. This bill is also exempt from deadlines due to the committee it was introduced in.</p>
<p><u>SB228</u>            Sponsor: Senator Rick Billinger, R-40th            Committee: Senate Ways and Means            Related to <u>HB2184</u></p>	<p>Providing for the regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies and healthcare workers platforms by the secretary for aging and disability services</p>	<p>This bill did not receive a hearing due to time constraints. However, it is still alive for the 2026 session. This bill is also exempt from deadlines due to the committee it was introduced in.</p>

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<p><u>SB276</u> Sponsor: Senator Chase Blasi, R-26th Committee: Senate Public Health and Welfare</p>	<p>Removing the state fire marshal from the adult care home licensure act and the providers of disability services act and requiring the state fire marshal to complete training in person-centered care and responding to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and intellectual and developmental disabilities</p>	<p>The hearing was canceled to give more time to work out concerns with the language. However, it is still alive for the 2026 session.</p>
<p><u>HB2039</u> Sponsor: Representative Dave Buehler, R-40<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Fox Rehabilitation Committee: House Health and Human Services Related to <u>HB2280</u></p>	<p>Adding maternity centers to the definition of healthcare provider under the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act; amending the Kansas Credentialing Act to clarify that certain therapy providers are not home health agencies; authorizing paramedic and EMT activities under healthcare professional orders; allowing some ambulance services to operate less than 24/7; and requiring AED owners to register devices with the EMS board.</p>	<p>This was a conference committee report comprised of several different health related bills. It was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor.</p>
<p><u>HB2070</u> Sponsor: William Wilk, on behalf of Kansas Chamber of Commerce Committee: House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Related to <u>HB2069</u></p>	<p>Health and healthcare; relating to dietitians; enacting the dietitian compact to provide interstate practice privileges</p>	<p>The contents of HB2070 were placed into HB2069 with other compacts and passed the legislative body as a conference committee report. It was signed into law by the Governor.</p>
<p><u>HB2144</u> Sponsor: Representative Bill Rhiley, R-80th Committee: House Judiciary</p>	<p>Enacting the supported decision-making agreements act to provide a statutory framework for adults who want decision-making assistance and amending the crime of mistreatment of a dependent adult or an elder person.</p>	<p>This bill was just introduced and never acted on. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.</p>
<p><u>HB2163</u> Sponsor: Representative Cyndi Howerton, R-98th Committee: House Taxation Related to <u>SB224</u></p>	<p>Providing for the preceptor income tax incentive act, establishing an income tax credit for nursing home administrators, registered nurses and registered dietitians that serve as a community-based faculty preceptor in adult care homes and medical care facilities by providing personalized instruction, training and supervision for students</p>	<p>The bill received a hearing and final action n committee. Due to time constraints, it was unable to get to the House Floor. It is still alive and can be worked and pushed through to the Senate for final action in the 2026 session.</p>






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<p><u>HB2184</u>            Sponsor: Representative Mike King, R-            Committee: House Social Services            Budget            Related to <u>SB228</u></p>	<p>Providing for the regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies and healthcare workers platforms by the secretary for aging and disability services</p>	<p>The initial hearing was canceled, but an informational hearing was offered in its place allowing KDADS and state trade associations to share information on what other state standards are. This bill is still alive for the 2026 legislative session.</p>
<p><u>HB2248</u>            Sponsor: Representative Carl Turner, R-28<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Kansas Hospital Association            Committee: House Higher Education            Budget</p>	<p>Establishing the Kansas nursing initiative grant program and authorizing the state board of regents to approve need-based or competitive grants for the expansion of nursing faculty, laboratory supplies and tools for student success at postsecondary educational institutions</p>	<p>The bill was able to make it out of committee, but was referred back once it reached the floor due to concerns with some of the language on eligible institutions. This bill is still alive to move forward in the 2026 session.</p>
<p><u>HB2249</u>            Sponsor: Representative William Carpenter, R-75<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Kansas Hospital Association            Committee: House Health and Human Services            Related to <u>SB82</u></p>	<p>Requiring the secretary for aging and disability services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care and establishing the south central regional mental health hospital</p>	<p>The bill ended up in conference committee where a couple other non-controversial healthcare related bills were added. The legislative body passed the bill and it was signed by the Governor.</p>
<p><u>HB2045</u>            Sponsor: Representative Laura Williams, R-30<sup>th</sup>            Committee: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development            Related to <u>HB2294</u></p>	<p>Establishing certain license fees and training requirements, creating a process for day care facility licensees to apply for temporary waiver of certain statutory requirements and authorizing the secretary to develop and operate pilot programs to increase child care facility availability or capacity, transferring certain child care programs to the Kansas office of early childhood and separating licensing duties between the secretary for health and environment and the executive director of early childhood</p>	<p>This is the major childcare bill which was originally in HB2294 but the contents were placed into HB2045 to get through session within time constraints. The legislative body passed and Governor signed into law.</p>
<p><u>HB2316</u>            Sponsor: Representative Ron Bryce, R-11<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of KDADS            Committee: House Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Directing the deposit of civil penalties collected for violations of correction orders issued by the state fire marshal into the disability community services providers civil monetary penalty reinvestment fund or the adult care homes civil monetary penalty reinvestment fund</p>	<p>The bill received a hearing with no final action in the committee. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.</p>

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<u>HB2339</u> Sponsor: Representative Barbara Wasinger, R-111 <sup>th</sup> on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas Committee: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Related to <u>HB2392</u>	Enhancing adult care home services by providing for adult care home workforce development through scholarships for part-time nursing students and setting minimum education levels for instructors at nursing schools, establishing an intergenerational child care program to enhance the adult care home environment by supporting adult care homes offering child care services through the awarding of grants by the secretary of health and environment and creating the intergenerational child care fund and authorizing the secretary to administer the fund.	The bill had a hearing and was set to be worked for final action. Due to concerns about the fiscal note associated with the scholarship and childcare provisions, it was tabled until 2026.
<u>HB2359</u> Sponsor: Nancy Strouse, on behalf of Kansas Judicial Council Committee: House Judiciary	Enacting the uniform adult guardianship and protective proceedings jurisdiction act and the uniform guardianship, conservatorship and other protective arrangements act	The bill made it through the legislative body and was signed into law by the Governor.
<u>HB2361</u> Sponsor: Representative William Carpenter, R-75 <sup>th</sup> , on behalf of Kansas Hospital Association Committee: House Health and Human Services	Abolishing the nursing scholarship program and creating the Kansas healthcare service scholarship program to include part-time students and expand the list of eligible programs	This bill was just introduced and never acted on. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.
<u>HB2370</u> Sponsor: Representative David Buehler, R-40 <sup>th</sup> on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Committee: House Health and Human Services	Requiring additional licensing requirements for assisted living facilities with dementia care	This bill was just introduced and never acted on. The bill is still alive and could move forward as is or as a shell in the 2026 session.
<u>HB2392</u> Sponsor: Representative Barbara Wasinger, R-111 <sup>th</sup> Committee: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Related to <u>HB2339</u>	Facilitating nursing workforce development by setting maximum education levels for instructors at nursing schools as a requirement for state approval	The bill made it out of committee and was about to pass out the House floor. Due to concerns raised later after the hearing by the Board of Nursing, it was sent back to committee to be worked in the 2026 legislative session.

# BUDGET TAKEAWAYS

The “mega” budget bill, otherwise known as SB125, included expenditures in FY25 of an increase by \$2.77B AF and \$1.48B SGF compared to FY25. For FY26, it reflected \$25.6B AF, \$10.64B SGF, an overall decrease of \$1.47B (5.4%) AF and \$210.5M (1.9%) SGF from the FY25 recommended expenditures. Below is the breakdown for health related items.

## KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - HEALTH

	FY2025	FY2026	% Difference
Hospice	\$1.9M, \$738,000 SGF	\$1.9M, \$738,000 SGF	0% AF
Adult Oral Health	\$4.8M, \$1.9M SGF	\$10M, \$4M SGF	70.2% AF
TOTAL	\$6.7M, \$2.6M SGF	\$11.9M, \$4.7M SGF	55.9% AF, 57.5% SGF

## KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

	FY2025	FY2026	% Difference
Nursing Home Rebase	\$58.7M, \$22.2M SGF	\$45.3M, \$17.7M SGF	-25.8% AF
Nursing Home Add On	\$47M, \$18M SGF	\$75.5M, \$29.3M SGF	46.5% AF
BH Add On Pilot	-	\$3.9M, \$1.5M SGF	N/A
PACE Rebase	\$6.2 M, \$2.4M SGF	\$6.3M, \$2.5M SGF	2.4% AF
HCBS/FE	\$48.3M, \$18.6M SGF	\$48.3M, \$18.6M SGF	0%
TOTAL	\$160.2M, \$61.2M SGF	\$179.3M, \$69.6M	11.3% AF, 12.8% SGF

**FY26 Total**  
**\$191.2 M AF, \$74.5M SGF**

# NEXT STEPS

## Interim Committees

Keep an eye out for interim committee announcements such as KanCare Oversight or Healthcare Workforce Roundtables and assist with submitting testimony or feedback.

## Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will assist in discussions on outstanding bills to prepare for 2026. Want to join? Message Kylee.

## Legislative Lunches

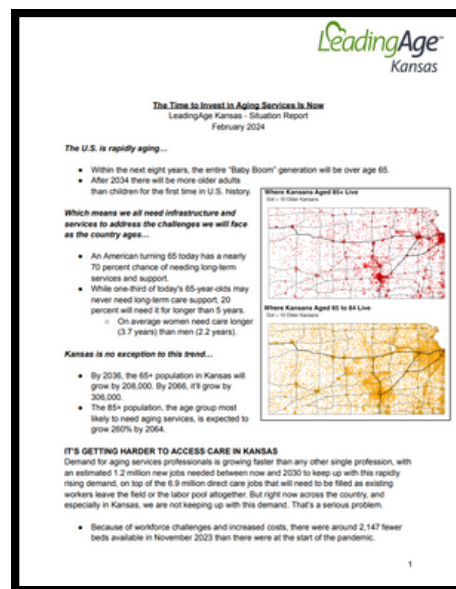
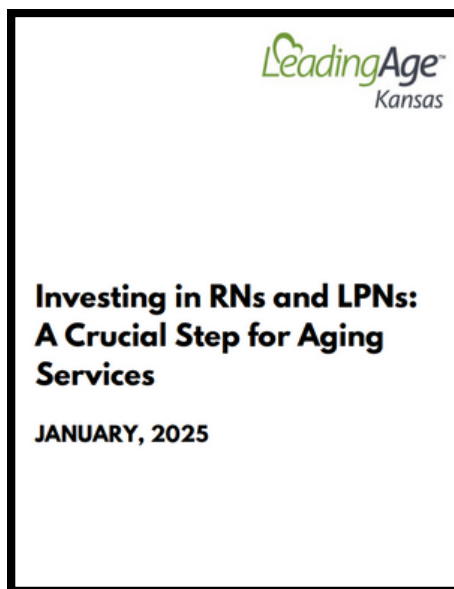
Join us in your regional location in October 2025 to have lunch with legislators and prep them on our outstanding bills of interest for the 2026 legislative session.

## LeadingAge Advocacy Bootcamp & Frontline Workshop

Participate in the LeadingAge Advocacy Bootcamp or Frontline Workshop 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
  - 14+ Legislative Testimonies
  - Over \$191M in funding

## NEXT STEPS

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

- 
- Review the Grassroots Advocacy Manual
  - Attend the fall legislative lunches in October
  - Sign up for the Advocacy Bootcamp or Workshop

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 including:
  - Tonya Keim, Bluestem Communities
  - Gretchen Sapp, Paramount Community Living & Rehab
- All who contributed or supported our legislative efforts this session.

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