

“ THE PECK PERSPECTIVE ”

(From the Capitol)

February 16, 2022

Redistricting: (2nd update) Five days after the Legislature voted to override the Governor’s veto of SB 355, a map adjusting Kansas’ congressional district boundaries, two liberal groups, the ACLU and Loud Light, filed lawsuits in an effort to overturn the vote of your elected representatives.

The lawsuits were filed in District Court against the Kansas Secretary of State, Scott Schwab, and the Wyandotte County election commissioner. It is expected that the outcome of the suits will be determined in a few weeks.

I appreciate Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt’s comment regarding the lawsuits. Schmidt said the filings were no surprise and *“The plaintiffs are hoping state courts, which in the past have not reviewed federal congressional districts, will write new rules to their advantage ... we (the Attorney General’s Office) will vigorously defend the newly enacted law that establishes new congressional district boundaries.”* Kansans are fortunate to have AG Schmidt fighting for us.

Fairness in Women’s Sports: Most Kansans will remember that during the 2021 session, rather than protect our female athletes, Governor Kelly sided with boys who claim they’re girls and vetoed legislation that would have kept males off of girl’s athletic teams; as well as out of their locker rooms and showers.

Over the past many months, I have heard from numerous Kansans who are frustrated by the Gubernatorial veto and they say, in strong terms, they expect the Legislature to address the issue – we are working on that. With the introduction of SB 484, the issue is again before the legislature. Passage of SB 484 will provide protections for girls from the left’s radical transgender ideology.

Most men want girls to be empowered and recognized for being strong women, not degraded and pressured into a victimized minority by a ridiculous push toward accepting unnatural behavior. I expect SB 484 to easily pass through the legislature.

Gold Star Memorial: Less often than I wish, legislators have an opportunity to work on non-controversial legislation that all can be proud of. By a 40-0 vote, the Senate sent to the House a bill, SB 330, to provide for the placement of a permanent memorial honoring Kansas Gold Star families on the

Statehouse grounds. Gold Star families are families who have lost a family member in the line of military duty.

Selling Raw Milk: Many of us raised in rural America enjoyed drinking raw milk. "Raw milk" is simply milk as it came from the animal – cow or goat – and has been poured through a filter to make certain there is no dirt or other particles in it.

The Senate, with no opposition, passed legislation, SB 346, to remove barriers to on-the-farm retail sale of milk or milk products. The bill simplifies in statute the definitions for milk, goat milk, milk products, and grade A pasteurized milk. It also clarifies the definition of "on-farm retail sales of milk or milk products" by stating it refers to unpasteurized raw milk. Finally, SB 346 removes current barriers prohibiting producers from promoting the sale of ungraded raw milk or ungraded raw milk products other than by a sign on their farm.

Another Health Care Option: With the current strain on the health care system, it's important to provide additional options, preferably ones that don't use taxpayer money, for Kansans to receive the care they need. By a vote of 38-2, the Senate sent to the House, SB 200; which allows pharmacists to initiate therapy for influenza, strep and urinary tract infections. Allowing pharmacists to provide, within the framework of new statewide protocols, point-of-care testing and treatment for these conditions, Kansans will be able to receive care at more locations and during additional evening and weekend hours.

Roughly 2,000 Kansans die from flu-related illnesses each year. Allowing additional testing and treatment options can help ensure Kansans do not face needless medical expenses, and help prevent complications, when suffering from influenza, strep and urinary tract infections.

Until next time, may the blessings of God be yours.

Virgil Peck
State Senator