

# “ THE PECK PERSPECTIVE ”

(From the Capitol)

April 10, 2023

The Senate finally adjourned the “Thursday” (April 6<sup>th</sup>) session at 4:18 a.m. Friday morning, marking the start of a 20-day break. The Legislature will return to Topeka on April 26<sup>th</sup> for the veto session. There are still several issues to be settled, primarily funding of K-12 education, which could cause the veto session to be more properly termed the wrap-up session.

Prior to adjourning, final votes were taken by both chambers on several pieces of legislation – mostly in the form of a Conference Committee Report (CCR). The CCRs that passed both chambers are headed to the Governor for her consideration. CCRs are those frustrating things wherein several bills can be lumped together, and the only choice is to vote yes or no; no amendments can be offered.

**Successful Veto Override:** I’ll begin by mentioning the widely known veto override of HB 2238 – the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act. After two previous attempts (in 2021 & 2022), and the election of some new House members, the Legislature finally garnered the necessary two-thirds majority vote to override Governor Kelly’s insatiable appetite to protect boys, who claim to be a girl, over natural-born females. I join the chorus in thanking the one House Democrat who stood by his beliefs and represented his constituents by voting to override the veto. I met and thanked the man for his vote – he’s a courageous and principled person. His party needs more like him.

This successful override will protect female athletes from boys taking away their starting spots on teams, keep boys out of girls’ locker rooms and showers, stop boys from breaking records in female events, and denying female athletes the recognition and scholarships they have worked so hard to attain.

**Passing SB 180:** In the March 13<sup>th</sup> *Peck Perspective* I wrote that SB 180, the *Women’s Bill of Rights*, had passed the Senate. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the House attached an amendment and passed the bill 83–41. Due to the amendment, the Senate had to vote again. We passed the amended version 28–12, sending it to the Governor. We’ll soon know if she wants another veto override attached to her resume’.

As a reminder, SB 180 simply defines male and female as “*such individual’s biological sex, either male or female, at birth*”. And it requires schools and government agencies that collect vital statistics to identify persons as either male or female at birth. The House amendment said, “*an individual born with a medically verifiable diagnosis of ‘disorder/differences in sex development’ shall be provided legal protections and accommodations afforded under the Americans with Disabilities Act*”.

**Pro-Life Bills** (HB 2313 & HB 2264): HB 2313 would enact the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (Act) and require that any healthcare provider present at the time a

baby is born alive during an attempted abortion to provide life-saving medical care and transport the baby to a hospital. Failure to do so would be a level 10 nonperson felony. Additionally, any person who intentionally performs or attempts to perform an overt act that kills the child who is born alive during an attempted abortion would be guilty of severity level 1, person felony. The provisions of the Act do not apply to the mother of the child.

Currently, babies who come out of the mother alive during an attempted abortion are placed on a table to die – or worse yet, the abortionist will intentionally end the child's life. Many see this conduct as unacceptable, cruel, and barbaric. I'm one of those persons. HB 2313 passed both chambers with bipartisan support, the House 86–36 and the Senate 31–9 and was put on the Governor's desk on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Another pro-life bill that will soon be given to Governor Kelly is HB 2264. The bill passed the House 80–38 and the Senate 26–11. HB 2264 amends the definition of abortion in statute to mean *"the use or prescription of an instrument, medicine, drug or any other means to terminate the pregnancy of a woman knowing that such termination will, with reasonable likelihood, result in the death of the unborn child"*. Other language in the bill requires abortion providers to, *"post a conspicuous sign that is clearly visible to patients and customers, that is printed with lettering that is legible and at least ¾ inch boldfaced type and that reads: Mifepristone, also known as RU-486 or Mifeprex, alone is not always effective in ending a pregnancy. It may be possible to reverse its intended effect if a second pill or tablet has not been taken or administered. If you change your mind and wish to continue the pregnancy, you can get immediate help by accessing available resources."* The sign must also list relevant phone numbers and internet resources with information on where to obtain timely assistance to reverse the effects of the abortion medication.

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

Virgil Peck  
State Senator