

“ THE PECK PERSPECTIVE ”

(From the Capitol)

April 16, 2022

Governor Laura Kelly's veto pen saw plenty of action over the past couple weeks. Once again proving "elections have consequences".

I've mentioned most of the vetoed legislation in previous newsletters, so I won't go into great detail. However, I'll tell my plans on any veto overrides.

For a veto override to be successful, it requires a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber – in the Senate 27 and the House 84.

Another Health Insurance Option (SB 199): SB 199 allows Kansans to renew a limited-duration health insurance policy for up to 36 months. These policies aren't new to Kansas, they've been written for several years, but they're currently limited to a maximum duration of 12 months.

A limited duration policy is a free-market health care option that has served many Kansans well. Although not for everyone, they provide real protections for persons who choose them. SB 199 passed the Senate 28–11 and the House 73–49. I will be voting yes to a veto override.

Proving Opportunity (HB 2448): A hand up is better for a person, than a hand out. HB 2448 requires able-bodied adults (not disabled) ages 18-49, without dependents, who work less than 30 hours a week, to participate in a job training program in order to receive food stamps.

A person with job training is more likely to find a good paying job than those without such training – leading to a pathway of self-sufficiency and personal prosperity. The Governor's veto of HB 2448 keeps more people dependent on the government.

In her veto message, Governor Kelly said: *"This bill would unnecessarily burden nearly 30,000 hard-working Kansans, including people caring for families and impacting those with children."* Apparently, she failed to read HB 2448. It clearly states, *"The Provisions of this subparagraph shall only apply to able-bodied adults aged 18 through 49 without dependents."* HB 2448 passed 28–11 and 70–46. I'll be voting yes to a veto override.

Fairness in Women's Sports Act (SB 160): SB 160 simply sets a fair playing field for females by saying if you're a male, you cannot decide you want to be a female and then play on girl's/women's sports teams or go into their locker rooms and showers.

No normal-thinking person believes it's okay to discriminate against female athletes by allowing boys to compete in their events. But Governor Kelly is

quoted as saying, *"We all want a fair and safe place for our kids to play and compete. However, this bill did not come from experts at our schools, our athletes, or the Kansas State High School Activities Association."* When it's the right thing to do, it doesn't matter who brought the bill (female legislators took the lead). SB 160 passed the Senate 25-13 and the House 74-39. I'll take a stand for young ladies and vote yes to override the veto.

Parents' Bill of Rights (SB 58): There's been a lot of false information published about SB 58. Don't buy into the narrative of those trying to cloud the debate. SB 58 is about making certain students are taught the fundamentals – reading, writing and math – and not a leftist "woke" agenda. That's not to say that all teachers are advancing an extremist leftwing agenda, but legislators regularly hear from concerned parents and grandparents about some of the ideals being taught to their children in schools.

SB 58 simply allows greater parental involvement in their child's education by giving them a broad new authority to learn just what their children are being taught and what materials (books, flyers, videos, etc.) their children may see at school. SB 58 does not divert money from the classroom, require lesson plans to be posted online or cause more work for teachers. The bill passed the Senate 23-15 and the House 67-46. I support a veto override.

Regulating Plastic Containers (SB 493): SB 493 is a free enterprise, free-market issue designed to ensure businesses aren't burdened with expensive mandates. The bill prevents local municipalities from regulating or taxing plastic containers (bag, cup, bottle, etc.) and allows consumers to decide if they're willing to pay for non-plastic options. SB 493 passed 26-12 and 74-48. I'll vote yes to an override attempt.

Bills I won't Support Overriding the Veto (SB 161 & SB 286): SB 161 allows robot-style "personal delivery devices" on sidewalks and crosswalks. These are the "last mile" delivery of packages – think Amazon. SB 161 passed the Senate 22-17 and the House 75-47.

I strongly considered supporting SB 286 (for the good provisions); however, I believe it's time for America to get back to normal after the pandemic. SB 286 extended provisions of the governmental response to COVID-19 until January 30, 2023. SB 286 passed the Senate 24-16 and the House 64-51.

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

Virgil Peck
State Senator