



Before heading back to Topeka for the final veto session, I wanted to send you a brief update regarding the past ten weeks of work completed by the legislature. Following turn-around weekend, the bills passed by the House were sent to the Senate, and the House began reviewing and voting on bills sent from the Senate. The work load definitely picked up at that time. The amount of time spent in our committee work decreased, but the hours spent on the House floor hearing, debating, and then voting on bills significantly increased. Toward the end of the session, we were on the House floor from morning until night; the final night of the session actually extended until 1:00 AM the next morning! Since the 2010 session began I have voted more than 250 times. We have voted on legislation that covers a tremendously wide range of issues. You can always access the bills at www.kslegislature.org if you are interested.

As I stated in my last newsletter, keeping up with all of the bills is quite challenging. We receive our General Orders around 4:00 in the afternoon the day before the bills will be heard; I make sure that I review each bill before I vote by either staying late or coming in early. In the final days of the session, we sometimes only have 20 or 30 minutes to review the bills that we will subsequently vote on. We are also faced with floor amendments or substitute bills that come as a surprise. It is important for you to know that I do not want to rush into a decision about an issue, so some of my votes against bills or amendments reflect my opinion that the bill or amendment has not been vetted properly through our committee system and needs more work. I recognize that on each vote there will be some of you who would have voted differently than me. If you are confused by my vote or want an explanation of why I voted yes or no on a bill, feel free to contact me. I find it best to talk personally rather than trying to explain via e-mail. I am a conscientious person, and I do my best to represent the majority of the 25th District.

Probably the most significant bill we have passed this year is the Kansas Clean Air Act. While there are some parts of the bill that may still need some work, the primary tenet of the bill to ban smoking in nearly all public places is a major step to improve the quality of life and health of the people of Kansas. Most cities in the state had some type of smoking ban, but they were all different; now, the rules are consistent throughout the state. I heard from one family how excited they were that this law had passed because for the first time ever, their son, who suffers from asthma, was going to be able to participate in their weekly bowling venture, something he had never done before because of the smoke at the bowling facility. Another gentleman shared that his daughter had died from an illness caused by second-hand smoke, and he was deeply thankful that others in Kansas would be spared his tragedy.

Now we are faced with the challenge of a budget deficit of approximately \$500 million. An amazing number of you have contacted me asking to support funding of our public school system with increased taxes. I am a staunch believer that the strength and future of our state rests on the excellence of our schools, and will be voting accordingly. At this time there a number of options that might be placed before us to balance the budget, including significant cuts as well as various taxes. The legislators who



are proponents of school funding have been working diligently behind the scenes exploring and planning for what we hope is the best option that can be supported by both the House and the Senate. There will have to be some give and take from each one of us in order to pass a budget. My expectation is that this will be a difficult and tedious process, and I remain hopeful that we will be able to provide a budget for Kansas that supports education, the mentally ill and disabled, maintenance of our highway system, and business development.

It is always good to hear from you. My website (www.barbarabollier.org) has all of my contact information. The final veto session begins Wednesday, April 28. Thank you for allowing me to represent you; it is a privilege and an honor.