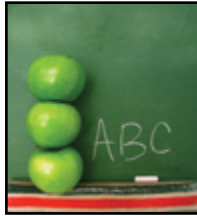


PUBLIC EDUCATION

In the area of Public Education, the adopted Coalition Budget restored the \$86 million cut that was proposed in the Appropriations Committee Budget, holding public schools even with FY 2010 funding. This restoration will help to prevent additional teacher layoffs, school closings, program cuts, etc., all areas that have taken a drastic hit this past year. It is important to note that school funding is not increased by this budget; these additional education funds only replace \$131 million that was advanced last year with federal stimulus money. My vote supported the Kansas Constitution requirement to fund a quality public education. I also participated in a persistent effort to increase local funding to our school districts in two separate bills: one to add a quarter cent county-wide sales tax dedicated to schools and another that would have run the KPERS pension funds through the school funding formula. Both of these bills failed. Most of you are aware that the current school funding formula funds Johnson County schools at some of the lowest levels in the state for Base State Aid per Pupil. I have scheduled meetings with Gene Johnson, SM Superintendent, and Donna Bysfield, SM School Board, to discuss how we should focus our efforts next year to change the funding formula and get more local control of our education funding.



OTHER NOTABLE BILLS

Probably the most significant piece of legislation that was passed this session was the Kansas Clean Air Act, championed for the previous four years by our own Senator David Wyson. I spoke and voted favorably for the passage of this bill, which will create a consistent smoking ban for all public places in Kansas with the exception of Casino floors. Senate substitute for HB 2356 created Lexie's Law, a child care licensing act. In its initial form, this bill was quite controversial and after a great deal of committee work and revising, I voted "yes"; the bill eliminates the category of registered "family day care home" and creates a transition process for those homes to become licensed, establishes requirements for "competent supervision" of children, and changes inspection requirements to once every 15 months. HB 2130, the Primary Seat Belt Law, amends state law to require every occupant of a passenger car to wear a safety belt. It allows a law enforcement officer to stop a car for a seat belt violation by anyone in the front seat or by anyone under the age of 18. The fine for violations will start at \$5 from June 2010 to July 2011, when the fine will increase to \$10. Enacting a primary seat belt law brings \$11 million in federal funding to the state. A

new transportation plan covering the next ten years, T-WORKS, was adopted this session and was something I voted for. Approximately \$8.2 billion will be used for construction and maintenance of our highway system, as well as provide money for the modal system. Sixty thousand construction jobs and 175,000 total jobs will be supported by this bill, a real plus for the Kansas economy. Johnson County will receive just under \$6 million for a highway interchange project.



SOCIAL SERVICES

Regarding Social Services, the Coalition Budget funded \$3.6 million for physical disability waivers that fund direct care services for Kansans with physical disabilities; it also included \$3.3 million for development disability waivers that allows these individuals to stay in their homes as opposed to seeking nursing home care. The Appropriations Committee Budget would have cut \$5 million for the Early Childhood Block Grant which would have caused 3,251 at-risk infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to lose services, along with cutting the Developmental Disabilities Direct Service Grants that provide service for 1,669 Kansans; the Coalition Budget restored those cuts. Other programs that had funding restored in the Coalition Budget include Early Head Start, MediKan Program, Independent Living Grants, SRS, and the Nutrition Program for Seniors. It was clear to me that cutting all of these programs was not in our best interest, and that the ultimate long-term cost would be untenable for Kansas taxpayers both fiscally and as caring citizens.

MOVING FORWARD

Working as your Representative these past few months has been an amazing privilege and honor. The days just flew by, filled with information, evaluation, and relationship building. I am a passionate, lifelong learner, and the learning curve was off the charts for me as a newcomer to the legislature. I have gained a tremendous amount of expertise and experience in this brief time, and am excited to say that I will be seeking re-election. I have the great fortune of having an intern working with me part-time this summer. His name is Austin Koch, he just completed his first year of medical school at KU, and he is eager to learn about combining a career in medicine and political service.

As a legislator, I have access to Legislative Research personnel in Topeka to gather information about any topic, and I will take full advantage of this opportunity during the upcoming months. I meant what I said in my election speech: I intend to be proactive rather than reactive in my approach to the policy issues of our state. Feel free to contact me at anytime to discuss my votes this past session or issues that need addressing in the future. Many times my vote on a particular bill may have reflected something different than you might think at first blush, and an honest conversation where we can listen to each other can be quite informative.



My website, www.barbarabollier.org, has all of my contact information as well as copies of my newsletters and other helpful information. I appreciate the privilege of serving as your Representative and hope to meet you personally over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bollier

Barbara Goolsbee Bollier, MD

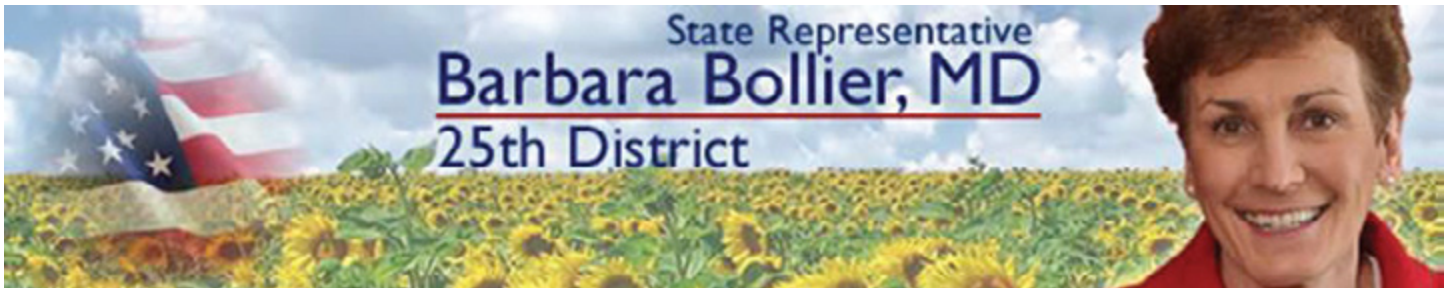
Barbara Bollier, MD

State Representative
25th District

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END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER • 2010

The 2010 Legislature has completed its business for the year. Over 750 bills were written and approximately 250 of those bills were debated and passed by the House and Senate. During the past 18 months, over one billion dollars has been cut from the state budget as a result of significantly reduced revenue during this challenging economic climate. I heard from hundreds of you during the legislative session, and the vast majority of your letters and e-mails urged me to consider a budget/revenue package that would support our schools and our most vulnerable citizens. After listening to the majority input, I voted for a bipartisan budget and revenue plan that was put forward by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans. This plan included an additional one cent sales tax increase beginning in July. There was simply no way to responsibly balance the budget on cuts alone. Had the legislature tried to singularly cut its way out of the approximately \$500 million hole, we would have created more problems than we solved. It was essential to me to evaluate the long-term effects and not just look at short-term solutions.

REVENUE PACKAGE

The challenge of dealing with four years of declining revenue for the state budget was immense. As the session progressed and the projected revenue for the state continued on a downward spiral, many different options were considered in our discussions. I consider it a victory for District 25 that an income tax was not included in the Coalition Revenue Plan, something I would not have supported. Eliminating various tax exemptions was another option examined, but after five of them were voted down, the idea never seemed to pick up support. Ultimately, this budget crisis could not be responsibly addressed without some sort of revenue proposal, and the idea of balancing the budget by forcing our schools to use up their reserve funds along with the questionable option of selling real-estate in a down economy did not win my support. The bottom line for any bill is

that it takes 63 votes from the House and 21 votes from the Senate to make it to the Governor's desk for approval. The Coalition Budget coupled with the additional one cent sales tax accomplished that goal. As difficult as it was to vote for a tax increase my first year in office, I believe that I represented what the majority of the people of District 25 wanted. We are a community that deeply values the education of our children and the support systems for our most vulnerable citizens while holding firm in our belief that that there is such a thing as too much government. Where that line is drawn is difficult to ascertain, and there is sometimes confusion between what is done at the federal level as opposed to the state level. Rest assured that I spent a great deal of time and energy making a decision about my vote on these two bills. Now there is serious work to do preparing for next year when we could potentially face more revenue deficits.

See inside for more Legislative News

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the Kansas House. I hope my newsletter is helpful to you. My website has copies of all my newsletters as well as other information about me and the 25th District. The address is www.barbarabollier.com. If you would like to receive my e-mail newsletter, please send me your e-mail address. Feel free to contact me at any time!