

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE



GENE SUELLENTROP
SENATOR
27TH DISTRICT

2/24/2020

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

I wanted to let the Committee know we will not be working Senate Bill 252 further. The Committee worked the bill last week as a demonstration that we are willing to make progress on the bill – even while we wait for the House to pass Value Them Both.

My position is that we will not pass a Medicaid Expansion bill out of this committee until the House passes the Value Them Both Amendment. I share this position with the Senate President and majority of the Republican Caucus.

My commitment to everyone is that WE WILL kick a Medicaid Expansion Bill out of this Committee when the Value Them Both Amendment passes the House. We have the option to work HB 2066 at any time in Committee or, after The Value Them Both amendment passes, we could easily introduce the Governor's version SB 252 in Ways and Means and send it to the Committee to work and send to the Senate floor.

But I will say this for the record, I reject the premise that one legislator has the right to negotiate with the Governor on behalf of the entire Senate and any improvements to that plan by the Senate Health Committee are somehow out of line.

We had interim committees studying this issue all summer and fall. I chaired both of those committees. The amendments offered last week were largely based on the recommendations of those interim Committee reports. This is the Senate Health Committee and we are going to do our jobs.

Lastly, I appreciate that Governor Kelly had a radically pro-abortion record when she was in the Senate. She doesn't share this Committee's commitment to protecting the unborn as we demonstrated last week. Taxpayer funded abortions will undoubtedly increase in Kansas if Value Them Both isn't passed before we expand Medicaid – just as it did in Alaska. We are pro-life and we are going to act like it.

Meeting adjourned.

Senator Gene Suellentrop
Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare