

# Journal of the House

## FIRST DAY

---

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
TOPEKA, KS, Monday, January 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

This being the day fixed by the Constitution of the State of Kansas for the assembling of the 2008 session of the legislature, the House of Representatives was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Speaker Melvin Neufeld.

The roll was called with 124 members present.  
Rep. Johnson was excused on verified illness.

Prayer by Chaplain Brubaker:

Father God:

Today is the genesis of the 2008 session. There is excitement — anticipation — perhaps some anxiety for what lies ahead. We have had several months to be with our people — to hear their concerns — to feel their heartbeat — to understand their fears and know their needs. As we gather together as representatives of these people, help us to pray the prayer of David — let us “look to the Lord and *Your* strength; *and* see *Your* face always.” (I Chronicles 16:11) Grant us Your wisdom — Your discernment — Your direction — Your desire for the people of this great state of Kansas. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, I pray, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rep. Pottorff.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This letter is to advise you that the Office of Chief Clerk has received the following communications during the interim since adjournment of the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature

From Molly McGovern, Administrator, Metropolitan Culture District Bi-State Commission, the Annual Report and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2006.

From Chris Biggs, Securities Commissioner, a report on the Investor Education Program, as required by the Kansas Uniform Securities Act.

From Bob Page, President and Chief Executive Officer, The University of Kansas Hospital, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007.

From Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Authority, the Kansas Water Authority's 2008 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

From the Office of Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

Executive Order No. 07-10, suspending the imposition of interest on the delinquent payment of 2006 second half real and personal property taxes for the duration of the state of emergency in Kiowa County.

Executive Order No. 07-11, suspending the one week waiting period before collecting unemployment benefits for individuals affected by the severe natural disaster in certain counties.

Executive Order No. 07-12, suspending for 30 days certain rules applying to motor vehicles used in the support effort following the weather-related emergencies in Kansas.

Executive Order No. 07-13, rescinding all county drought stage declarations in Executive Order 07-04, issued on March 6, 2007.

Executive Order No. 07-14, suspending charging of employer accounts unemployment insurance benefits paid as a result of the May 5, 2007, severe weather in Kiowa, Barton, Stafford, Pratt, Edwards and Phillips counties; also suspending imposition of interest and penalties for failing to file wage reports or make contribution payments under the Employment Security Law for the second and third quarters of 2007 for those counties; also suspend payment of fees for the inspection of newly installed or replacement boilers or pressure vessels for those counties.

Executive Order No. 07-15, offering a reward for information in the homicide of Gine Cyphers.

Executive Order No. 07-16, reformulating the composition of the Kansas Energy Council.

Executive Order No. 07-17, suspending for an additional 30 days certain rules applying to motor vehicles used in the support effort following the weather-related emergencies in Kansas.

Executive Order No. 07-18, suspending for 30 days certain rules applying to motor vehicles used in the support effort following the weather-related emergencies in Kansas.

Executive Order No. 07-19, suspending for 30 days certain rules applying to motor vehicles providing direct assistance to the emergency fuel relief effort.

Executive Directive No. 07-376, Authorizing Personnel Transactions.

Executive Directive No. 07-377, Authorizing Expenditure of Federal Funds.

Executive Directive No. 07-378, Authorizing Expenditure of Federal Funds.

Executive Directive No. 07-379, Authorizing Fund Transfers.

Executive Directive No. 07-380, Authorizing Fund Transfers.

Executive Directive No. 07-381, Authorizing Personnel Transactions.

Executive Directive No. 07-382, Authorizing Personnel Transactions and Authorizing a Fund Transfer.

Executive Directive No. 07-383, Authorizing a Fund Transfer and Authorizing Expenditure of Federal Funds.

Executive Directive No. 07-384, Authorizing Expenditure of Federal Funds.

Executive Directive No. 07-385, Authorizing Personnel Transactions.

Executive Directive No. 07-386, Authorizing Personnel Transactions.

The complete reports are kept on file and open for inspection in the office of the Chief Clerk.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS**

From Janice Katterhenry, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Kansas Bioscience Authority, financial statements, year ended June 30, 2007 and the period from April 19, 2004 to June 30, 2006 and Independent Auditors' Report.

From William R. Seck, Superintendent, Kansas Highway Patrol, pursuant to KSA 60-4117, report regarding state forfeiture funds, December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2007.

From Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, Annual Report for year ending June 30, 2007. The report is also posted at [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org).

From Daniel J. Nackley, Director of Investments, in accordance with KSA 75-4222(h), Annual Report of the Pooled Money Investment Board for Fiscal Year 2007.

From Lynn Jenkins, Kansas State Treasurer, 2007 Annual Report to the Kansas Legislature.

From Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections, pursuant to 2007 SB 14, first annual report detailing the Kansas Community Corrections grant program.

From Doug Louis, Director, Conservation Division, Kansas Corporation Commission, pursuant to KSA 55-192, KSA 55-193 and KSA 55-194(b), Remediation Site Status Report and Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Status Report.

From Kansas Electric Transmission Authority, 2007 Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature.

From Donald Jordan, Chair, Kansas Sex Offender Policy Board, Final Report, January 2008.

From Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, pursuant to Section 14 (e) of 2007 SB 357, Report on Proposed Rate Increases for Attendant Care Providers.

The complete reports are kept on file and open for inspection in the office of the Chief Clerk.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL MOTIONS AND HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

On emergency motion of Rep. Merrick, **HR 6001**, by Reps. Neufeld and McKinney, as follows, was introduced and adopted:

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6001—

A RESOLUTION relating to the organization of the House of Representatives.

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives notify the Senate that the House is organized with the following officers:

Melvin Neufeld, speaker,  
 Donald L. Dahl, speaker pro tem,  
 Raymond F. Merrick, majority leader,  
 Dennis McKinney, minority leader,  
 Janet Jones, chief clerk,  
 Wayne Owen, sergeant at arms,

and awaits the pleasure of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL MOTIONS AND HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

On emergency motion of Rep. Merrick, **HR 6002**, by Reps. Neufeld and McKinney, as follows, was introduced and adopted:

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6002—

A RESOLUTION relating to assignment of seats of the House of Representatives.

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the members of the 2008 regular session be assigned the following seats: The speaker be assigned seat No. 2; the speaker pro tem be assigned seat No. 1; the majority leader be assigned seat No. 3; the minority leader be assigned seat No. 4; and the remaining members of the house be assigned the following seats: Aurand 114, Ballard 30, Beamer 63, Bethell 105, Bowers 84, Brown 117, Brunk 112, Burgess 107, Burroughs 6, Carlin 94, Carlson 23, Colloton 81, Colyer 111, Craft 106, Crow 13, Crum 41, Davis 57, Dillmore 76, Donohoe 109, Faber 12, Faust-Goudeau 52, Feuerborn 15, Flaharty 93, Flora 48, Frownfelter 69, Fund 60, Garcia 29, Gatewood 55, George 45, Goico 62, Gordon 43, Goyle 91, Grange 40, Grant 36, Hawk 50, Hayzlett 24, Henderson 73, Henry 18, Hill 66, Hodge 101, Holland 88, Holmes, C. 120, Holmes, M. 20, Horst 61, Huebert 47, Humerickhouse 39, Huntington 44, Johnson 122, Kelley 85, Kelsey 80, Kiegerl 64, King 119, Kinzer 102, Knox 123, Kuether 49, Landwehr 77, Lane 74, Light 65, Loganbill 51, Long 58, Lukert 95, Mah 70, Mast 86, Masterson 118, McCray-Miller 34, McLachlan 17, McLeland 42, Menghini 72, Metsker 38, Morrison, Jim 99, Morrison, Judy 9, Moxley 103, Myers 37, Neighbor 56, O'Neal 11, Olson 124, Otto 79, Owens 121, Palmer 32, Patton 104, Pauls 92, Peck 59, Peterson 16, Phelps 31, Pottorff 67, Powell 21, Powers 125, Proehl 78, Rardin 35, Rhoades 83, Roth 46, Ruff 96, Ruiz 90, Sawyer 14, Schroeder 8, Schwartz 7, Sharp 110, Shultz 10, Siegfried 26, Sloan 116, Spalding 25, Storm 28, Svaty 75, Swanson 100, Swenson 87, Tafanelli 19, Tietze 89, Treaster 68, Trimmer 54, Vickrey 113, Ward 5, Watkins 97, Wetta 53, Whitham 22, Wilk 115, Williams 33, Winn 71, Wolf, B. 108, Wolf, K. 82, Worley 27, Yoder 98.

The first three seats north of the center aisle in the last row are reserved for the sergeants at arms.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

The following prefiled bills were introduced and read by title:

**HB 2602**, An act concerning crimes and punishment; creating the crime of use of a controlled substance endangering a child; amending K.S.A. 22-2802 and repealing the existing section, by Representative Schwartz.

**HB 2603**, An act concerning income taxation; relating to credits; clarifying the definition of qualified business facility employee and qualified business facility investment; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-32,154 and repealing the existing section, by Joint Committee on Economic Development.

**HB 2604**, An act concerning school districts; establishing the continuing employment incentive grant program, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee (By Request of the 2010 Commission).

**HB 2605**, An act concerning school districts; relating to school finance; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-6455 and repealing the existing section, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee (By request of the 2010 Commission).

**HB 2606**, An act concerning school districts; relating to special education and the costs thereof; amending K.S.A. 72-983 and repealing the existing section, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee (By request of the 2010 Commission).

**HB 2607**, An act concerning school districts; relating to healthy weight education programs, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

**HB 2608**, An act concerning school districts; relating to enrollment; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-6407 and repealing the existing section, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

**HB 2609**, An act concerning postsecondary education; establishing the military service scholarship program, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

**HB 2610**, An act concerning the state board of regents; relating to payment of debt service for certain capital improvement projects; making and concerning appropriations for the state board of regents for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012; establishing the regents crumbling classrooms debt payment fund; transferring moneys from the state general fund to the fund, Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

**HB 2611**, An act concerning certain employees at state educational institutions; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 76-715a and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 76-715b, by Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

**HB 2612**, An act concerning state educational institutions; relating to the board of regents; financial systems, by Joint Committee on Information Technology.

**HB 2613**, An act concerning the state capitol; relating to the statehouse art and history committee members; amending K.S.A. 75-2266 and repealing the existing section, by Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources.

**HB 2614**, An act concerning the commemoration of the Kansas sesquicentennial in 2011; creating the Kansas sesquicentennial commission, by Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources.

**HB 2615**, An act concerning abortion; amending K.S.A. 65-445 and 65-6703 and repealing the existing sections, by Special Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

**HB 2616**, An act concerning amusement rides; relating to inspection and regulation thereof; prohibiting certain acts and providing penalties and remedies for violations, by Special Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

**HB 2617**, An act concerning motor vehicles; relating to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 8-1001 and repealing the existing section, by Special Committee on Judiciary.

**HB 2618**, An act concerning administrative procedure; amending K.S.A. 77-512, 77-620 and 77-621 and repealing the existing sections, by Special Committee on Judiciary.

**HB 2619**, An act concerning civil procedure; relating to the change of judge in civil cases; amending K.S.A. 20-311d and repealing the existing section, by Special Committee on Judiciary.

**HB 2620**, An act concerning the state board of healing arts; relating to non-disciplinary resolution, by Special Committee on Judiciary.

**HB 2621**, An act concerning child custody and parenting time; relating to military deployment, mobilization or temporary duty; amending K.S.A. 60-1625 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 60-1610 and repealing the existing sections, by Special Committee on Judiciary.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

On motion of Rep. Merrick, **HCR 5026**, by Reps. Neufeld and McKinney, as follows, was introduced and adopted:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5026—

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION providing for a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing a message from the Governor.

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein:* That the Senate and the House of Representatives meet in joint session in Representative Hall at 7:00 p.m. on January 14, 2008, for the purpose of hearing the message of the Governor.

*Be it further resolved:* That a committee of two members from the Senate and three members from the House of Representatives be appointed to wait upon the Governor.

*Be it further resolved:* That a committee of two members from the Senate and three members from the House of Representatives be appointed to wait upon the Lieutenant Governor.

In accordance with **HCR 5026**, Speaker Neufeld appointed Reps. Aurand, Schwartz and Storm to escort the Governor.

Also, Reps. Humerickhouse, Shultz and Long to escort the Lieutenant Governor.

Also, Reps. Owens, Horst and Crow to escort the Supreme Court.

Also, Reps. Sloan, Swenson and Dillmore to escort the Senate.

#### REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following prefiled bills were referred to committees as indicated:

Appropriations: **HB 2613**.

Economic Development and Tourism: **HB 2603**.

Education: **HB 2604**, **HB 2605**, **HB 2606**, **HB 2608**.

Elections and Governmental Organization: **HB 2614**.

Federal and State Affairs: **HB 2602**, **HB 2615**, **HB 2616**.

Government Efficiency and Technology: **HB 2612**.

Health and Human Services: **HB 2607**.

Judiciary: **HB 2617**, **HB 2618**, **HB 2619**, **HB 2620**, **HB 2621**.

Education Budget: **HB 2609**, **HB 2610**, **HB 2611**.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL MOTIONS AND HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was introduced and read by title:

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6003—

By Representatives Flaharty and Rhoades

A RESOLUTION proclaiming January 16, 2008, as Kidney Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes that healthy citizens are essential for strong communities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Chronic kidney disease is a major public health problem with increasing prevalence, poor outcomes, long waits for kidney transplants and high costs; and

WHEREAS, One in nine American adults has chronic kidney disease and over 2,325 Kansans receive life sustaining dialysis treatment; and

WHEREAS, Early detection can help prevent the progression of kidney disease toward kidney failure and the earlier kidney disease is detected, the better the chances of slowing or stopping its progression and avoiding long hospital stays and dialysis; and

WHEREAS, As the costs of health care continue to grow, early and accurate diagnosis of kidney disease is a critical component of efforts to reduce the negative clinical and economic impact on individuals and on the State of Kansas: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we proclaim January 16, 2008, as Kidney Awareness Day in the State of Kansas.

#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT CHANGES

**Government Efficiency and Technology** — Rep. Sloan is appointed to replace Rep. Sharp as Vice-Chair.

**Transportation** — Rep. Metsker is appointed to replace Rep. Sharp

**Joint Committee on Information Technology** — Rep. Burgess is appointed to replace Rep. Sharp.

**Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight** — Rep. Johnson is appointed to replace Rep. M. Holmes.

**Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations** — Rep. Patton is appointed to replace Rep. Kinzer; Rep. Trimmer is appointed to replace Rep. Svaty.

**Joint Committee on Economic Development** — Rep. Tietze is appointed to replace Rep. Wetta.

The House stood at ease until the sound of the gavel.

---

Speaker Neufeld called the House to order.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Speaker Neufeld introduced Dr. Michael Kennedy, University of Kansas Medical Center, and President of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, which sponsors the Doctor of the Day program and provides daily assistance for health concerns of those serving in the Statehouse during the session.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Announcing adoption of **SR 1801**, a resolution relating to the organization of the 2008 Senate and selection of the following officers:

Steve Morris, President,

John Vratil, Vice President,

Derek Schmidt, Majority Leader,

Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader,

Pat Saville, Secretary,

Jody Kirkwood, Sergeant-at-Arms,

and awaits the pleasure of the House of Representatives.

Also, announcing adoption of **SCR 1615**, a concurrent resolution relating to a committee to wait upon the Governor and advise her the 2008 session of the Legislature is duly organized and ready to receive communication.

Also, announcing the appointment of Senators Wysong and Kelly as Senate members of the committee to wait upon the Governor.

#### INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

On motion of Rep. Merrick, **SCR 1615**, a concurrent resolution relating to a committee to wait upon the Governor and advise her the 2008 session of the Legislature is duly organized and ready to receive communication, was thereupon introduced and adopted.

In accordance with **SCR 1615**, Speaker Neufeld appointed Reps. Landwehr, Dahl and Williams to wait upon the Governor.

On motion of Rep. Merrick, the House recessed until 6:30 p.m.

---

**EVENING SESSION**

The House met pursuant to recess with Speaker Neufeld in the chair.

It being the hour in accordance with **HCR 5026** to meet in joint session with the Senate to hear the message of the governor, Reps. Sloan, Swenson and Dillmore escorted President Morris and members of the Senate to seats in the House.

Reps. Owens, Horst and Crow and Senators Petersen and Gilstrap escorted the Supreme Court to seats in the House.

Reps. Humerickhouse, Shultz and Long and Senators V. Schmidt and Lee escorted the Lieutenant Governor to a seat in the House.

Reps. Aurand, Schwartz and Storm and Senators Pine and Haley escorted the Governor to the rostrum.

**Governor Kathleen Sebelius' Complete Text  
of the State of the State**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Madam Chief Justice, legislators, justices, cabinet officers, elected officials, leaders of Indian nations, honored guests, and my fellow Kansans.

Good evening.

It is good to be back here in the newly renovated House chamber, where I once had the honor of serving.

Tonight, we have some special guests who represent all the children of our state and are the true inspiration for hope and optimism about our future. Twins Kimberlin and Samuel are here from Mulvane with their parents Christie and Tom Lovell and their grandparents, Nita and Don Payne. Kimberlin and Samuel were born on January 8th, 2007, the day I was sworn into office to begin my second term.

The decisions that we make in the months ahead and in the years to come will help to determine what opportunities these two young Kansans - and thousands more like them - will have as they grow up in the Sunflower State. Will they have strong schools to attend? Will they acquire the tools they need to succeed? Will they find good jobs that allow them to compete in the global economy?

There are serious challenges facing our state and our nation. As Kansans, we are well-suited to face these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities. We start with some tremendous advantages: a resilient spirit; a strong work ethic; a shared belief in the power of education; a diverse and growing economy; and citizens in every corner of our state who believe in something greater than themselves.

Let us tonight resolve to create a Kansas in which futures are bright, hopes are realized, and our communities are safe and secure.

2007 began and ended with devastating ice storms. In May, the town of Greensburg was nearly destroyed by an EF5 tornado. And early last summer, Southeast Kansas experienced floods unlike anything in fifty years — only to see the damage exacerbated by an oil spill in Coffeyville.

Unprecedented storms may have wreaked havoc on our communities but they could not diminish our resolve. Kansans came together. Individual citizens donated their time, money, and supplies to aid in the recovery effort. Local, state, and federal governments worked to protect our citizens and begin rebuilding the affected communities.

We should be proud of our efforts and with us tonight are four local heroes, representing the hundreds more who helped - and are still helping - communities recover from the storms. Greg Allen, Coffeyville Fire Chief; Darin Headrick, the superintendent who opened the doors of the Greensburg schools on time; Pam Kemp, Clay County Emergency Manager; and Matt Mercer, Southwest Kansas Emergency Management Coordinator.

Let us take a moment to remember those Kansans whose lives were lost and those families who still seek to heal and recover. And we say thank you to those who put the lives and

families of others above their own needs; who helped strengthen our communities and our state.

When we look into the faces of children like Kimberlin and Samuel, we see the future, with both the challenges and the opportunities of a global, innovation economy. This economy is not waiting for the twins somewhere out on the horizon; the innovation economy is here - now - today.

Innovation, the new ideas which change the way we work and live, is first and foremost powered by people. So we must redouble our efforts to educate and train ALL of our citizens for jobs in this new marketplace. Quality education is essential to a prosperous future. Over the past few years, we have kept — and increased - our commitment to educating every Kansas child. But there is still work to be done.

My budget contains funding for the third year of our historic investment in K-12 education. This will continue to ensure strong schools in every community across our state. And, I have proposed a fourth year of the school finance plan which includes all-day kindergarten.

We know that the most important factor in a child's success in the classroom is a well-trained and inspiring teacher. We will not have more scientists, engineers or skilled technicians without great teachers encouraging students to enter those critical fields. Therefore, I am proposing \$1 million for new teaching scholarships in math, science and technology.

High-tech industries represent the fastest growing sector of our economy. Children like Kimberlin and Samuel will need a strong math and science education to prepare them to enter the workforce. My budget includes funding for the Kansas Academy of Math and Science. Opening in 2009 at Fort Hays State University, the academy will ensure that talented young Kansans have the opportunity to be the next generation of world-class innovators.

We know that early education is key to preventing school failure. We can't afford for any of our young Kansans to be so far behind that they never catch up by the time they enter kindergarten. My budget extends the state's network of quality early learning opportunities for children during their most formative years. We have the opportunity to make sure that more Kansas children have a successful start by funding pre-natal care and newborn screening. Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start and quality child care.

To further support our youngest Kansans, I am proposing a new Early Childhood Block Grant, driven by research-based programming and accountability measures, focused on at-risk children and under-served areas. The global economy will demand much of our children later in life. We can't afford to squander their earliest years of preparation and learning.

But our commitment to education cannot, and will not, end with the 12th grade. There has never been a time in our history where higher education has been more closely linked to the future prosperity of our state.

Kansas is blessed to be the home of world class research universities, four year colleges, community colleges, and vocational and technical training schools, still too many Kansans find the doors of opportunity barred by rising tuition costs, room and board expenses, and textbook prices.

My budget takes significant steps to make college more affordable. I am providing an additional \$3 million in scholarship money to ensure that 2,000 more students can afford the opportunity to compete in our new innovation economy. There are also significant new state resources proposed for post-secondary education, to lower the costs for parents, students and Kansas families.

Last year I signed into law the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority to ensure Kansans are able to gain the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the workforce. Collaboration between education leaders and the business community is underway, so that training for new and current workers matches the skill sets needed for the innovation economy.

Our economic strategy also must focus on the prospects and promise of rural Kansas communities. I am pleased to announce the first Center for Rural Opportunity recently opened at Sterling College. Soon, centers at Colby Community College and Neosho Community College will open, concentrating on attracting investment, job growth, and business development to our rural areas.



With us tonight are Joe Glassman, Chairman of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, and Dr Bruce Douglas, President of Sterling College, hosting the first Center for Rural Opportunity.

With the Kansas Comprehensive Transportation Program nearing project completion, now is the time to develop a vision for our transportation future, and preliminary discussions are already underway. We have learned that every successful economic development proposal in Kansas includes transportation. Our ability to move people and goods throughout our state and to market is an essential component of future growth.

We have incredible assets that promise future opportunity, whether it's our thriving aircraft industry, our emerging plant, animal and life sciences sector, or the barely-tapped potential of bio-fuels. I am issuing an Executive Order creating the Kansas Innovation Consortium, charged with overseeing the continued vibrant growth of Kansas. Key business leaders will join educators and agency heads to continue expanding and diversifying our economy.

A growing burden for business leaders, for workers, for families and for seniors is the continued rising costs of health care. Our economic prosperity depends on making real changes in the current system. A fundamental problem with health care in Kansas, and around the country, is that our costs continue to rise and the results are getting worse. The delivery system is inefficient and fragmented — it is broken.

Kansas can and must do better.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority, under the direction of the legislature, has submitted a plan to transform this ailing system. At the core of the health reform package are three priorities: promoting personal responsibility for health and wellness, paying for preventive care, and providing all Kansans with affordable health insurance.

I thank the Kansas Health Policy Authority and the steering committee for traveling across the state, listening to Kansans, and developing these recommendations. I strongly encourage the passage of the health plan, in its entirety, this session. It will begin to fix our broken system, and provide better care for all Kansans.

In addition to making fundamental changes in the delivery of health care for Kansans, we have an important opportunity to provide cutting-edge treatment and develop cures for cancer. Every Kansas family has experience with a loved one with cancer, and too many of our citizens have to travel great distances or don't have access to the best possible care.

My budget continues the state's investment in the life-saving goal of attaining the National Cancer Institute designation for the University of Kansas Medical Center by 2010.

The Cancer Center will ensure that all Kansans will have greater access to the best cancer research, therapies, and prevention. Equally critical to cancer treatment and overall health care is addressing the shortage of pharmacists throughout our state, especially in our rural areas.

My budget proposes the expansion of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. When completed, the capacity of the pharmacy school will nearly double, providing instruction to additional students, assisting with continuing education, and promoting residency programs in hospital pharmacies around this state.

As we assist businesses, workers and families with innovation in reforming our health care system, so too must we work together in meeting the unprecedented challenge of finding clean, affordable, and secure sources of energy to meet this nation's growing demand.

We are at a moment in our country's history similar to the moment nearly 100 years ago, when two innovative entrepreneurs, Clyde Cessna and Walter Beech, came to Kansas, joined a fledgling industry, and made history. Today, over 50% of the airplanes flown in the world are made in Kansas, and our economy, our state and the country has benefited from their vision and determination.

We can again lead an American transformation — lead America to energy security by tapping our fertile resources, our workers, and the ingenuity of Kansas entrepreneurs. We can — and we must — reduce our greenhouse gas emissions *and* increase our economic competitiveness by using our natural resources. Kansas is uniquely positioned to meet this challenge.

Our nation is in the midst of a bio-energy revolution that will fundamentally change the way we produce and consume energy. My budget recommends the creation of a Bioenergy

Research Grant Program, to spur development of innovative new technologies producing the most cost-efficient renewable fuels.

Congress has recently set an aggressive goal for alternative fuel production by 2022. Kansas can and should be a leader in reaching America's goal. I have charged the Kansas Bioscience Authority with developing an aggressive plan for bio-energy technology and production, aimed at producing 20 percent of the nation's alternative fuel needs.

But our opportunity to find new and better sources of power doesn't end with biofuels. Kansas is one of the best states in the nation for wind power. Until recently we had not even begun to harness this resource. Five years ago only one percent of our energy came from wind. Today, we are well on our way to meeting my goal of ten percent renewable energy by 2010 and twenty percent by 2020.

Construction of the state's fourth wind farm is now complete and many more are in the planning stages. Sunflower Wind has announced that they will begin manufacturing wind turbines in Hutchinson, creating as many as 250 permanent jobs. These commitments, along with announcements of new transmission lines, and the recent decision of the Kansas Corporation Commission that wind production is a prudent investment, are having a positive impact.

To continue the momentum, I have created the Kansas Wind Working Group and appointed Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson as chair, to aggressively pursue our opportunities and incentives for wind power, as well as to encourage Kansas communities to invest in wind projects.

Finally, the cheapest and cleanest form of energy is energy we don't use in the first place. Conservation and efficiency measures can extend our current energy capacity much farther into the future. With aggressive conservation efforts involving individuals, businesses and government, we can reduce our need for electricity, and still continue to grow.

We must embrace the Kansas Energy Council's proposal to require that all new state buildings meet minimum energy efficiency standards. We challenge private developers and business owners to join us in that commitment.

Regulatory support for utility companies to educate and encourage conservation efforts for their customers is essential. I am also proposing standards that will provide for more Kansans to qualify for interest-free loans to improve the energy efficiency of their own homes.

By capitalizing on our state's assets, we will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, boost our rural economy, and protect the environment for our children's future. We need to join the 36 states that have begun or completed development of a comprehensive climate change action plan. It is clear the people of Kansas welcome an informed discussion about our energy future, economic opportunities, and the protection of our environment. We can rise to the challenges we face only if we commit ourselves to moving forward.

For those of us here tonight, we must resolve to settle our differences the way Kansans expect us to: Not by looking back, over our shoulders, but by looking to the future. I am eager to work with legislators to capture this historic moment, and even though some difficulties lie ahead, let us once again aim for the stars.

As leaders we will be measured by a simple test — how well did we use the assets we were given to make Kansas a better place for future generations? Are we hopeful about the future for young Kansans like Kimberlin and Samuel? Are we willing to turn our attention to their future and focus on their opportunities?

Tonight, we must unite behind common goals: a high quality education for all Kansans, providing the knowledge, skills and enhanced training needed for talented workers in our innovation economy.

We must focus our efforts on lowering costs and providing access to the highest quality health care for our citizens, facing our energy challenges, and embracing them as a new economic opportunity.

These goals unite us as Kansas leaders, and bring us together to serve the people of our state. The innovation economy comes with challenges and opportunities, but working together, we can ensure a bright future for Kimberlin, Samuel, and all Kansas children.

So tonight, let us join together, roll up our sleeves, and re-dedicate ourselves to working for a better Kansas. Thank you for your service and thank you for the great honor of serving as your governor.

May God bless the great State of Kansas and the United States of America. Good night.

On motion of Rep. Merrick, the House adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

JANET E. JONES, *Chief Clerk*.

CHARLENE SWANSON, *Journal Clerk*.

