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CAPITOL REPORT

March 11, 2022

Speaking against the No Patient Left Alone Act on the floor this week.

Hello Neighbor,

I hope this email finds you well! It was a chaotic week in Jefferson City with more chaos in the Senate and a lot of controversial legislation moving through the House. Check out the Legislative Update section below for details on those bills.

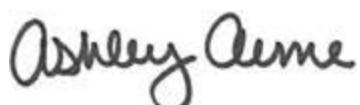
This week, I stood up repeatedly to defend the rights of hospital patients and residents at long-term care facilities as the House passed the No Patient Left Alone Act—which allows patients to designate up to 4 people to be present with them at their bedsides even during a state of emergency. Let me be very clear: I believe sick, vulnerable folks deserve an advocate. Unfortunately, this bill goes way too far, and ignores the advice of medical professionals who understand the need to balance patient advocacy with patient safety.

As I said to KOMU this week, we all have rights. As much as a patient has a right to an advocate, the patient down the hall has the right to not be infected with a virus that could kill them. This bill is not the answer, and I voted no for that reason.

The bill passed 120-27-4.

The legislature is not in session next week, but we will return to the capitol on Monday, March 21. As always, thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

Take care,



Representative Ashley Aune
District 14 | (573) 751-3618

Legislative Update

HOUSE AGAIN SEEKS TO IMPOSE PHOTO VOTER ID

In an annual ritual that's continued for more than 15 years, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives on March 10 approved legislation seeking to make voting contingent on having a valid, government-issued photo identification.

In most years, photo voter ID measures pass the House only die for lack of action in the Senate. Although the legislature has twice managed to enact the requirement into law, **the Missouri Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional both times**. Whether the legislation makes it through the Senate this year remains to be seen, but if it does a court challenge is guaranteed and likely to end with the same result as the prior two cases.

This year the House approved two photo voter ID measures – one again putting the requirement in state law and another seeking to enshrine it in the state constitution. Lawmakers voted 96-35 to approve the former, [House Bill 1878](#), and 97-36 to pass the latter, [House Joint Resolution 94](#). **Since voting is a fundamental right, the state high court has said any restrictions on it are subject to the highest level of constitutional scrutiny.**

SENATE APPROVES MEASURE TO WEAKEN HANCOCK AMENDMENT

The Senate on May 8 granted preliminary approval to a proposed **constitutional amendment that would weaken the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against state lawmakers imposing unfunded on local governments**. A second vote is required to advance the measure to the House of Representatives, where similar legislation awaits debate.

[Senate Joint Resolution 38](#) would empower the legislature to **force Kansas City to spend more of its budget on the city's police department without providing state funding**. As currently written, the Hancock Amendment guarantees local officials have the final say how local tax dollars are allocated without interference from the state. If the state wishes to require local governments to spend more money for a particular purpose, the state must provide the funding necessary to implement the mandate.

As originally proposed, all Missouri municipalities and counties would have been subject to unfunded mandates relating to law enforcement spending. However, the Senate added an amendment limiting the legislation's impact to Kansas City, whose police department is the only one in Missouri under state control. The lower

CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING, OPEN ENROLLMENT BILLS WIN APPROVAL REQUIREMENT

The House of Representatives on March 9 narrowly passed pair of education bills that separately would modify how independent charter schools receive public funding and give students more leeway to attend public schools districts other than the one in which they live. Both bills now advance to the Senate.

Lawmakers voted 85-67 in favor of [House Bill 1552](#), which would establish a new formula for determining how much local funding a public school district must allocate to charter schools in their jurisdiction. Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of a local school district and are **exempt from many state education regulations**.

The other measure, [House Bill 1814](#), would establish a voluntary open enrollment program that would allow students in one district to transfer to another participating district, subject to space and staffing limitations. Lawmakers approved HB 1814 on a vote of 85-66-1.

chamber's version, [House Joint Resolution 100](#), still applies statewide. If either measure is approved by both legislative chamber, it automatically would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.

LEGISLATION WOULD GIVE LAWMAKERS A SAY ON INITIATIVE PETITIONS

Missouri lawmakers would have the power to change proposed ballot measures before they go before voters under a proposed constitutional amendment the House of Representatives advanced to the Senate on March 10 by a vote of 96-34.

Under [House Joint Resolution 91](#), once signatures were submitted on an initiative proposing a constitutional amendment, the legislature would have the opportunity to modify the proposed constitutional language. If the initiative sponsor accepted the changes, voters could ratify the measure with simple majority of votes cast. If the sponsor opted to go with the original version, a two-thirds majority of votes cast would be needed.

HOUSE APPROVES ALLOWING GUNS IN CHURCHES, ON BUSSES

People with a permit to carry a concealed weapon could bring their guns into churches and other houses of worship under legislation the House of Representatives approved by a vote of 101-40-5 on March 9. The bill also would create a statutory right for conceal-carry permit holders to bring their weapons on public transportation.

[House Bill 1462](#) would repeal an existing law that prohibits carrying a concealed weapon into a place of worship without permission. Other provisions of the bill would lower the minimum age for obtaining a conceal-carry permit from 19 to 18 and make it a crime to engage in celebratory gunfire. The bill now advances to the

Senate.

Legislative Survey Results



Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to fill out a legislative survey. Your responses help me represent your interests in Jefferson City.

[Click here to view survey results](#)

If you have any questions or would like to speak in-depth about the survey results, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Phone: (573) 751-3618

E-Mail: Ashley.Aune@house.mo.gov

Northland Ethnic Festival 2022

Join the KC Ethnics Enrichment Commission for a cultural celebration. Dozens of cultural groups will perform and showcase exhibits. There will be a diverse range of food available for purchase, along with some art, crafts and jewelry.

- Date and Time: April 23rd, 11 am to 3 pm
- Address: Staley High School (2800 NE Shoal Creek Parkway, Kansas City, MO

64156)

- Free Admission and Parking

You can find performance schedule and listing of participating groups on [Facebook](#) and [eeckc.org](#).

Sponsors are North Kansas City District, Ethnic Enrichment Commission, Mid Continent Library, Edward Jones Parkville

Capitol Report Poll

What would you like to see in my future Capitol Reports?

This poll will help me understand how I can help cater weekly newsletters to my constituents. The form will close March 31st.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit response.

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Sowing the seeds of a strong relationship with the youth in your life can start with healthy conversations. [Get your FREE deck of conversation cards today!](#)

Women Legislators of Missouri Scholarship

Women Legislators of Missouri are encouraging young women set to graduate from high school to apply for a college scholarship.

The Women Legislators of Missouri Caucus created the senior scholarship program to provide financial assistance to students on the basis of leadership, academics and community service. Candidates must fill out an application and are required to submit a 500-word essay answering the question, “If you were a state legislator, what would you hope to accomplish and why?”

A link to download the scholarship is located at <http://bit.ly/molegwomen>.

The submission deadline is Thursday, March 24, 2022.

The group will select recipients and then hold a reception in their honor on Monday, April 25, at the Missouri State Capitol. Scholarships will be presented to the recipients in the Missouri House Chamber. For more information, contact (573) 751-4787.

Health and Wellness



PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

Residential households in the U.S. can now **order a second set of 4 free at-home tests** from USPS.com. Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address
- One order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests
- Orders will ship free starting in late January

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