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DISTRICT 14 ASHLEY AUNE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL REPORT

March 7, 2022

Last week, the Capitol dome was illuminated in blue and yellow in honor of Ukraine. (Photo credit: Rep. Betsy Fogle)

Hello Neighbor,

I hope this email finds you well! Last week, **I was proud to stand in solidarity with the brave people of Ukraine** as the General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution expressing our support for the country. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is an important reminder that democracy is absolutely worth fighting for.

We're already off to another busy week here in Jefferson City! It seems like the majority party is intent on getting a lot done before our legislative spring break next week. Here's what's going on:

As of late Monday evening, the House perfected an open enrollment bill—which would allow public school students to transfer between districts—and a charter funding bill—which is highly contentious on both sides of the aisle. After we adjourned, the General Laws Committee held a hearing on HBs 2197, 2461 & 2734 which all aim to prevent youth trans athletes from playing sports on a team that

matches their gender identity.

As for the rest of the week, the State of the Judiciary will be Tuesday at 10:15—[click here to watch live](#)—and we anticipate debating reproductive healthcare access on the floor at some point. There's never a dull moment in the Missouri Legislature!

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

KILLED IN SENATE, ‘MAKE MURDER LEGAL ACT’ RETURNS IN HOUSE

Nearly three weeks after a Senate committee rejected Republican legislation a rural prosecutor dubbed the “Make Murder Legal Act,” a House panel considered an identical bill. Once again, **law enforcement organizations uniformly opposed the measure**, which seeks to create a presumption in state law that whenever one person kills another, the killer acted in self-defense.

Current law allows a defendant to claim self-defense at trial, but the defendant must show the use of force was justified under the circumstances. Prosecutors, of course, always bear the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed.

Under [House Bill 2118](#), a person who used physical or deadly force would be presumed to have acted in self-defense and be “immune from criminal prosecution or civil action.” Not only could that person not be prosecuted, the bill would prohibit suspects from being arrested, detained or charged with a crime unless authorities can prove “by clear and convincing evidence” that suspect didn’t act in self-defense.

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO REQUIRE KC TO SPEND MORE ON POLICE

The House of Representatives voted 99-42 to send legislation that appears to impose an unconstitutional unfunded mandate on Kansas City by requiring it to increase the amount of local revenue it spends on its police department. The bill now advances to the Senate.

A provision of the Missouri Constitution’s revenue-limiting Hancock Amendment prohibits the General Assembly from enacting laws that impose unfunded mandates on local governments beyond requirements already in place at the time voters ratified the amendment in 1980. **Under a law in place prior to the Hancock Amendment, Kansas City is required to allocate at least one-fifth of its general revenue fund for the police department.**

[House Bill 1986](#) seeks to greatly expand the base what is considered general revenue by including special taxes that are dedicated for specific purposes outside of the general fund. By requiring the city to spend more local revenue for the police without providing state funding, the requirement likely runs afoul of the Hancock Amendment. The bill is one of

PARSON APPOINTS ANOTHER ACTING HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

[Gov. Mike Parson on March 1 appointed a 22-year veteran of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as the agency's acting director](#) as his administration continues to deal with the aftermath of conservative Senate hardliners blocking his pick for a permanent director.

Paula Nickelson immediately took over as acting director from Richard Moore, the department's general counsel. Moore temporarily led the agency for a month after a small group of Republican senators stalled the confirmation of Donald Kauerauf, who ultimately resigned when the Senate didn't act by a Feb. 4 constitutional deadline. Because he wasn't confirmed by the deadline, Kauerauf, a 30-year veteran of the Illinois Department of Public Health with experience in emergency management, is constitutionally barred from ever again being appointed to the post.

In news release announcing Nickelson's appointment, Parson didn't say how long she will remain acting director or if he plans to again attempt to install a permanent director. As acting director, she doesn't face Senate confirmation.

several being considered by the legislature this year seeking to allow the state to impose unfunded mandates on local governments in regard to law enforcement budgets.

POORLY WORDED AMENDMENT TURNS TAX CUT INTO BIG TAX INCREASE

A legislative snafu that transformed a \$144 million tax cut into a \$416 million tax increase has resulted in the bill being sent back to its original committee to have the problem fixed. As originally filed, [House Bill 1992](#) sought to further reduce the state sales tax on food.

However, before the House Ways and Means Committee voted to approve the bill on Feb. 22, a Republican lawmaker successfully added an amendment changing the list of foods that are mostly exempt from sales taxes. [According to the Missouri Independent](#), the amendment was intended to keep junk food subject to taxation, **but the way it was worded, the amendment instead would have resulted in more categories of food being taxed than currently are under existing law.**

The mistake subsequently was caught, and another House committee that handles procedural matters voted 10-3 to send the bill back to the Ways and Means Committee to undo the amendment and vote out a corrected version.

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

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.

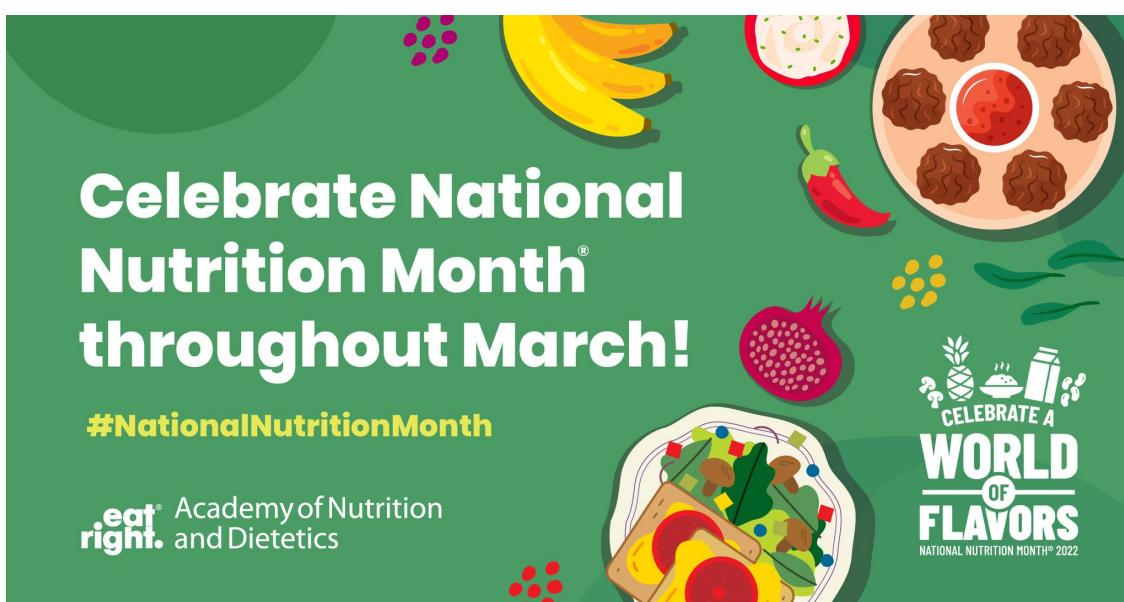
The Women Legislators of Missouri Caucus created the senior scholarship program to provide financial assistance to students on the basis of leadership, academics and community service. Candidates must fill out an application and are required to submit a 500-word essay answering the question, “If you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



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

March is National Nutrition Month! To celebrate and get involved, use this toolkit full of tip sheets and handouts, games and activities, PowerPoint presentations and more: <https://bit.ly/3K90Jt3>

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