

News Articles

In 2016, Pittman's campaign appeared to use a picture involving the Kansas City Royals that was considered copyright infringement.

Rep. Tony Barton said the Kansas City Royals are looking into a possible copyright infringement of campaign literature by a Leavenworth man running against him in the general election.

Barton said the campaign literature from the campaign of Jeff Pittman includes what appears to be a baseball card of Kansas City Royals Hall of Fame player George Brett.

The card is not identified by name but has the words "Kansas City" in capital letters at the top of the card.

A baseball card with Pittman's image in his younger days is shown next to the card appearing to be Brett.

The literature also includes Pittman's image on a likeness of the iconic crown facade at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. The image includes the words, "Vote for the hometown original November 8th."

Barton said the Royals were informed of the campaign literature and that the baseball organization "is concerned."

"It's headed up to their legal department," Barton said.

Pittman said the literature was sent out about a month ago after it was reviewed by attorneys and found to be within copyright laws.

Pittman said he has had no contact from any organization or the Royals about the literature.

"Tony Barton would be wise to substantiate such accusations before going to the newspaper," Pittman said. "I am very disappointed in my opposition. I have tried to be positive."

Pittman said he asked Barton to "stop using pictures of my kids and what did he do? Put them up on his website."

"These attacks detract from the real issues of the state."

Several attempts were made to get a statement from the Royals but the calls were not returned.

Pittman, a Democrat, is running against Barton, a Republican, for the House District 41 seat.

The election is Tuesday. (Source: The Leavenworth Times, November 5, 2016)

In 2017, Pittman supported a huge income tax hike and a 3-cent increase in the Gas Tax. "Rep. Jeff Pittman, D Leavenworth, introduced a bill in House Tax Committee that would attach a formula to the state's upper individual income tax bracket to require incremental increases in tax paid

for each dollar earned. He also included a 3-cent increase in the state's gasoline tax in a bill producing \$1.2 billion in revenue through two years.”

TOPEKA—A trio of House Democrats introduced competing bills Friday that raised Kansas taxes more than \$1.2 billion over two years to resolve the state government's substantial revenue shortfall and to boost spending on public schools.

It's unlikely any of the bills would make it to the desk of Gov. Sam Brownback, but introduction of each pointed to the desperate search for answers at the Capitol.

The 2017 Legislature, meeting for the 105th day of a session typically scheduled for 90 days, continued to hunt an elusive compromise erasing a projected two-year, \$900 million deficit and complying with the Kansas Supreme Court's expectation constitutional flaws in state aid to K-12 would be resolved with targeted spending.

Brownback vetoed legislation in February repealing a state income tax exemption for owners of 330,000 businesses and aggressive personal income tax cuts authorized in 2012.

Since that pivotal moment in the session three months ago, the House and Senate hasn't gathered votes to send alternatives to the governor.

Senate Vice President Jeff Longbine, R-Emporia, said frustration among some lawmakers escalated as days passed without concrete action advancing tax policy. The session's budget accounted for a maximum of 100 days.

"It's \$43,000 a day. We're out of money," Longbine said. "People are going to have to start compromising and figuring out what they can live with."

Rep. Steven Johnson, the Assaria Republican who chairs the tax panel in the House, said the fundamental objective was transformation of state income tax law to raise at least \$500 million more annually to "get us in the range where we can pay our bills."

He said consensus could emerge through informal discussions among factions at the Statehouse on a bill elevating state aid to public education by \$230 million to \$280 million within a two-year span. If an education bill were to pass the Legislature, he said, a tax reform measure could be cobbled together to resolve the cash shortfall.

"Many groups are gathering to talk about what they want and what they see as the tax package," Johnson said. "All of those discussions are helpful. The challenge is each of those groups also has to recognize it is not possible to get everything that is on the wish list."

Rep. Jeff Pittman, D Leavenworth, introduced a bill in House Tax Committee that would attach a formula to the state's upper individual income tax bracket to require incremental increases in tax paid for each dollar earned. He also included a 3-cent increase in the state's gasoline tax in a bill producing \$1.2 billion in revenue through two years.

"It's an idea out there. I wanted to broach the subject. Hopefully, perhaps, we can look into it a little deeper," Pittman said.

Jeff Glendening, who lobbies on behalf of Americans for Prosperity in Kansas, said the bill outlined by Pittman appeared to run counter to capitalist principles.

"This is straight out of the 'Communist Manifesto,'" Glendening said. "Is Karl Marx the original author of this new tax proposal?"

"No," Pittman said, "it takes the burden off the working and middle class."

Rep. Brett Parker, an Overland Park Democrat, introduced a bill adding three individual income tax brackets to Kansas' two-bracket system. It included a 5-cent per gallon hike in the state's fuel tax and a \$1.50 per pack escalation in the state's cigarette tax.

His bill would trim the state's 6.5 percent sales tax on food to 4.5 percent. The two-year price tag of his bill for taxpayers was estimated \$1.5 billion. (Source: Butler County News-Gazette, June 6, 2017)

In 2018, Pittman had an awkward and testy encounter with a constituent at a public event involving Gov. Jeff Colyer. The constituent, Jason Claire, wrote about it in a Letter to the Editor to the Leavenworth Times.

Encounter with an elected official Jason Claire Leavenworth To the editor: Saturday morning, Feb. 10, my family and I stopped in at Meriwether's to meet and greet our new Gov. Dr. Jeff Colyer. What should have been an exciting and enjoyable event for my children, wife and me, instead led to a rather disturbing encounter with Rep. Jeff Pittman, who approached me in what I feel was a confrontational manner as witnessed by several people, including my 9-year-old daughter, who is very much aware of his politics and who has developed her own negative perception of his opinion of me. Now put yourself in my shoes, a self-employed person who works six days a week to survive with no health insurance because the non-compliant policy we had with Blue Cross was canceled last April and would cost us about \$18,000 a year to replace.

Enjoying time with my family at an event where the governor appeared was special enough for us to open our business late, a very rare occurrence, for the privilege to attend.

Yet I had to suffer the self-righteousness of Rep. Pittman interrupting my family time to confront me about grievances for which he had the nerve to accuse me of being unwilling to discuss with him. This is untrue. For six months, I've been writing articles about his record in office. In that time, he reached out to me once, on Jan. 9, and I accepted his invitation to meet but he never followed up with me. During our Feb. 10 exchange, Rep. Pittman had the audacity to inform me he expected me to call him and arrange for the meeting he invited me to, insisting he had provided me with his phone number, to which I told him he never provided. He clarified, saying his number is publicly listed and I should have looked it up. He has had ample opportunity to meet with me - two other public events we were both at or engage on Facebook. He could have called or dropped by my retail store at any time but he never has. Rep. Pittman began this meeting by attempting to goad me several times into airing my grievances for which, he was well aware, are over his vote to raise our taxes last year.

I did tell him legislators needed to make cuts to the budget. He responded that they had made several cuts. I said that they need to cut more as my family has had to do. Incredibly, Rep. Pittman

also accused me of harassing him. He did not clarify or give details as to how he feels I'm harassing him. I assume he is not a fan of my writing and use of publicly available photos. Everything I have published concerning Rep. Pittman is true and accurately reflects his record. I've yet to see him dispute or rebut anything I have published.

The articles I publish are under my name. I go to great lengths to verify the information I publish so as not to give a false impression of his voting and attendance records. If Rep. Pittman can't handle written articles that amount to criticism from a constituent concerning his public record, then he is in the wrong line of work. If he doesn't like what his record reflects, then he should strive to change or explain it. Especially strange is the fact that accompanying Rep. Pittman was a third party who was seen by multiple, credible witnesses video recording our conversation.

This engagement has left me with the impression that Rep. Pittman singled me out, looking for a negative confrontation. I feel he tried to set me up to his benefit. This is not a normal way to open dialogue with someone you've never formally met and who is only exercising a constitutional right to shed light on the public record of an elected official. I also question exactly what his plans are for this video. Why didn't he inform me we were being taped and are my children captured on it? How dare an elected official take such an unethical privilege with a private citizen.

Once again, I find myself reminding Rep. Jeff Pittman to reflect upon his etiquette and to take note that there is a proper time and place for such discussions.

Perhaps he can obtain guidance from his colleague, Debbie Deere, with whom I had had a very pleasant exchange just prior to his encounter at this event.

(Source: Leavenworth Times, February 14, 2018)

In 2019, Pittman fundraised with “Save Rex” T-Shirts to pay for renovations for a T-Rex exhibit, but over half the net profit went to Pittman’s campaign. Some people questioned the move as a lack of accountability.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. -- The T-Rex has been extinct for more than 50 million years, but he's still casting a shadow in this local military town and causing problems.

All 25 feet of Rex, as he's known by the locals, has hovered over Spruce Street near downtown Leavenworth since the 1950s when he was part of an amusement park known as KiddieLand.

The park is long gone, replaced by a bowling alley, but Rex remains. And let's be honest: His looks have faded.

"It looks like he needs a new eyeball," one man said.

He was right. In fact, both are missing. His paint is flaking and his concrete body is cracked and chipped.

He's become so worn with wear that a "Save Rex" fundraiser was started last July to give the aging dino a makeover. That's where this problem starts.

The fundraiser was started by Holly Pittman. She's the wife of State Rep. Jeff Pittman (D-Leavenworth).

Holly Pittman failed to disclose in her first advertisement for the fundraiser that more than half of the money raised would go to her husband's re-election campaign. She quickly corrected that omission as soon as people started asking questions.

"It was such a quick idea we didn't even think it through," Holly Pittman said.

Among those upset was Pittman's political opponent whose campaign reported the issue to the Kansas Ethics Commission, which oversees campaign fundraising -- setting the stage for a T-Rex-sized dispute between the two campaigns.

Still others in Leavenworth just didn't feel comfortable mixing dinosaurs with politics.

"Where is the accountability of the money being raised?" one Facebook user asked. "People have a right to see the receipts since they invested in it."

For months hundreds of Save Rex T-shirts were sold. Martha Bredehoeft, who owns the bowling alley where Rex now stands, was excited.

"We had said it wasn't in our budget to repair Rex, and we would certainly accept any community involvement," Bredehoeft said.

For months, donors waited patiently for work to begin. Then last November, Jeff Pittman, who had just won a landslide re-election, started posting Facebook videos of him and Rex.

There was Pittman power washing Rex. Pittman patching holes in Rex's legs. Pittman slapping on a coat of primer on Rex's belly.

But in December the work stopped, even though Rex still had serious issues. The dino rehab signs that had been posted near Rex were pulled up.

"Haven't seen anything in awhile," Bredehoeft said.

That's one of the reasons a Rex supporter contacted FOX4 Problem Solvers. He wanted to know what happened to all that money raised for Rex by selling those \$20 Save Rex t-shirts.

"\$4 went to our campaign, and \$3 went to the dinosaur," Holly Pittman told FOX4.

She said 315 t-shirts were sold, raising more than \$6,000. More than \$3,000 of that was used to pay for the t-shirts. About \$1,350 went to her husband's campaign, leaving \$1,100 for Rex's rehab.

"We kept details of what we did so we could be transparent, so we could give it to the Ethics Commission," said Pittman who was also her husband's campaign manager.

She provided the Ethics Commission with a spreadsheet listing the names and addresses of every donor and how many t-shirts they bought.

The Ethics Commission told FOX4 that the Pittman campaign appeared to be in compliance with state law.

As far as Rex's remaining makeover?

"We have not been able to work on it because of the winter and the rains and we even had a tornado," Holly Pittman said.

But rest assured, Rex has not been forgotten. In fact, it looks like Problem Solvers has pushed Rex up on the priority list. This coming weekend he will be freshly painted in what can only be described as dinosaur green. Volunteers are welcome to help.

(Source: FOX - 4 WDAF (Kansas City, Missouri), June 13, 2019)

In 2019, When the Leavenworth County Commission put a tax increase on the ballot for mental health programs, Jeff Pittman was at the meeting and suggested it would be hard to get unaffiliated voters to turn out for it in a primary. I have no record of him saying he supported the tax hike.

Members of a local mental health task force are making plans to launch a campaign in support of a proposed countywide tax increase to support mental health programs.

Leavenworth County commissioners voted last month to put the proposed tax increase before voters next year.

The \$1.164 million per year tax increase was proposed by members of the Leavenworth County Mental Health Task Force.

The group has proposed the tax increase to fund a proposal that includes recommendations for providing clinician support to schools, providing a mental health caseworker to a local homeless shelter, matching an incentive for the state government to invest in a crisis stabilization facility and increasing compensation for staff at The Guidance Center.

The Guidance Center is a community mental health agency that serves Leavenworth County and two neighboring counties.

"We know we have a big test ahead of us," Keith Rickard, executive director of The Guidance Center, said Thursday.

He spoke during a meeting of the Mental Health Task Force.

Rickard, who serves on the task force, said the group will have to educate members of the public about the need for enhanced mental health services and perhaps the cost-benefit of implementing the group's proposal.

"This is a very real crisis in our community," Vicky Kaaz said.

Kaaz serves as the chairwoman of the Mental Health Task Force.

She also is a member of the Leavenworth County Commission.

The proposed tax increase will appear on ballots in the August 2020 primary election.

Even though it will be a primary, Kaaz said unaffiliated voters can still vote on the tax question.

State Rep. Jeff Pittman, who attended Thursday's meeting of the task force, suggested it will be difficult to get unaffiliated voters to turn out during the primary election.

"I know it's not easy," Kaaz said.

Members of the task force had requested that county commissioners call for a special election in the spring. But commissioners decided to place the tax question on ballots for the August primary.

"I think we can maintain the momentum," Mike Griswold said.

Griswold serves as the vice-chairman of the Mental Health Task Force.

He also is the mayor pro-tem of the city of Leavenworth.

After the holidays, Griswold said, the task force will come up with a timeline for a strategic communications plan.

Rickard said the UnitedWay of Leavenworth County will help with costs associated with the strategic communications plan.

Members of the task force met Thursday with Kyle Kessler, executive director of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas.

Kessler said funding for mental health services in Leavenworth County is extraordinarily low compared to what the needs are.

Kessler said he believes the proposal by the task force has the potential to become a model for other counties around the state.

"It's an idea that Kansans take care of their own," he said.

(Source: The Leavenworth Times, December 6, 2019)

Pittman wrote a letter to the editor complaining about being attacked for various votes on abortion. In the letter, he said: "I agree it's appropriate to then have a vote on the amendment by the electorate, making sure all citizens have a say on this important and sensitive issue."

To the editor:

This past week, I've seen that more mailers and ads have been sent to residents in state Senate District 5 containing misleading statements regarding my voting record as your Kansas representative. It is time to correct those lies.

Attack ads claim I voted to allow 14-year-olds to get abortions without notifying parents. I never voted for this. Attack ads claim I supported live-dismemberment abortions, which I also never voted on. These are all terrible lies. Other attack ads claim I have voted to spend tax dollars to pay for

abortions. I have never done so. This statute is known as the Hyde Amendment. In Kansas there is a statute (K.S.A. 65-6733) that prevents the use of state funds to provide abortions except as required by federal law. I've actually supported several House floor amendments that would explicitly ban state-funded abortions should federal laws change and we expand Medicaid.

In another attack, they point out I voted "no" on the so-called Abortion Reversal Pill. The bill would have mandated that doctors tell women this is a viable option to reverse abortions. To be clear, there is no FDA-approved Abortion Reversal Pill. Rather, there is an experimental technique that has been discredited by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. As an engineer, I believe science requires a theory must be tested and proven safe before it is put into everyday practice. When this method was tested, it resulted in 1 in 4 women getting sent to the emergency room due to severe hemorrhaging that could have led to death. Why would we make a law forcing doctors to recommend this technique?

Finally, the House voted on a potential constitutional amendment around abortion, which has been well publicized. I agree it's appropriate to then have a vote on the amendment by the electorate, making sure all citizens have a say on this important and sensitive issue. However, we are laying the foundation of law and, should federal laws change in the next decades, we have a responsibility to craft a proposal with definitions and guide rails we can accept. The proposed constitutional amendment failed to do that.

I voted "no" on the proposed amendment because the language did not protect the life of a mother facing a life-threatening pregnancy. This is most important to me. I would never agree to an amendment that would condemn a pregnant woman to die and leave her remaining children motherless, possibly orphaned, because she was forced to carry a life-endangering pregnancy. The long-term harmful effects on those motherless children are unimaginably cruel.

Keep in mind, despite a 2019 Supreme Court ruling, the Legislature is still free to, and has, set reasonable regulations, restrictions and protections around abortion. The Court's ruling does not prohibit all regulation from the Legislature as has been falsely argued.

My opponent stands on the side of the extremists, refusing to budge and work through a more appropriate amendment that would be acceptable to a majority. The groups supporting him rely on bullying and threats, and have damaged their position more than aiding it. We have been inundated with materials from outside our area in effort to obfuscate this issue, clearly for political gain. Unfortunately, they are using these mailers and ads to hide the fact that they support forcing victims of rape and incest to bear their rapist's children by excluding from their constitutional amendment any exemptions for those women and young girls victimized by such heinous acts.

I hope my positions on these issues have been clarified. I invite readers to contact me if they have additional questions about my true voting record on them.

(Source: The Leavenworth Times, October 8, 2020)

A police officer wrote a letter to the editor complaining about Pittman's missed votes.

To the editor:

As a retired Kansas City, Kansas, police officer who lives in Senate District 5, I have real reservations with Jeff Pittman's missed votes for the four years that he has been in office. He does not have a yes or no vote recorded for 45 bills, meaning Leavenworth had no representation on these matters.

I want a senator who actually shows up in Topeka and who also votes my values. As a retired police officer, I have an issue with the fact that Jeff Pittman was only one of two members of the Kansas House to vote against a bill that requires drivers to show their drivers license to law enforcement during a traffic stop. He also introduced tax policy that was compared to the Communist Manifesto. I'm glad it didn't pass out of committee.

That is why I am voting for Sen. Kevin Braun. Kevin has a 100% attendance record and I know him personally. He is a good man who works hard in the Kansas Senate and has common sense approaches to solving problems. He works across the aisle and was able to get a 40-0 Senate vote on a constitutional amendment by talking to both Democrats and Republicans. He was even able to convince the Senate Ways and Means Committee to set up a subcommittee on veterans' issues and was named chairman of that committee. Kevin cares about his fellow veterans and shows up in Topeka. I support him wholeheartedly. (Source: The Leavenworth Times, October 27, 2020)

Pittman spoke out against Senate Bill 172 in 2021, claiming that certain penalties on crimes for damage of infrastructure were too far reaching. [He later voted against the first version of this bill, but then voted for the amended version.](#)

TOPEKA — The Kansas Senate endorsed a bill Monday creating new crimes for damage of public or private infrastructure, and justified escalation in the criminal code by pointing to a need to deter radical environmental or justice protests.

Supporters of the measure were confident the four criminal acts ranging from misdemeanor trespassing of infrastructure facilities to felony offenses of aggravated trespassing, criminal damage to infrastructure and aggravated criminal damage to infrastructure would send the proper signal to people to stay clear of facilities essential to serving the public.

The list of designated facilities to be protected includes oil refineries, power plants, rubber manufacturing facilities, water plants, natural gas stations, transmission lines, propane storage facilities, broadband equipment, railroad or trucking facilities, steel plants and dams. It also would apply to above-and below-ground pipelines.

The bill took the unusual step of categorizing these infrastructure offenses under the state's RICO statute. It resembles the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, which was created in 1970 by the federal government as a tool for eradicating organized crime and provides extended criminal penalties and a civil liability for actions considered part of an "ongoing criminal organization."

"This bill is solid. There is a need for this bill," said Sen. Mike Thompson, a Shawnee Republican and chairman of the Senate Utilities Committee. "There are proper ways in our society to protest things — peacefully. Part of his is to protect these young people. They may not be the sharpest Crayon in the box. Part of this is protecting people from their own ignorance."

He said the legislation reflected actions of criminal justice protesters in the Pacific Northwest and of people opposed to the Dakota Access Pipeline, which led to more than 700 arrests and millions of dollars in extra law enforcement expenditures.

Senate Democrats attempted to have Senate Bill 172 referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee to clarify definitions in the legislation and to consider refining the criminal sentence tied to the offenses. The Senate deflected that motion and voted to place the bill on a list of measures ready for final action. If approved, it would be sent to the House.

Sen. Jeff Pittman, a Leavenworth Democrat, said the legislation needed more work because the felony offenses were tied to “the intent to damage, destroy, vandalize, deface or tamper with a critical infrastructure facility or impede or inhibit operations of the facility.” He said protecting infrastructure was a necessity, but a teenager with a spray paint can could be prosecuted under this bill if caught tagging a propane tank or railroad car.

“Here we are introducing four new crimes,” Pittman said. “These are severe penalties. We need to have laws that have teeth, but the penalty should match the crime. It seems as though this is far-reaching and broad. That disturbs me.”

He also said threading the state’s version of the racketeering law into the bill was “a bit ridiculous.”

(Source: Parsons Sun, March 2, 2021)

In 2022, Pittman voted against a ban on biological men playing women’s sports, saying it was a “solution in search of a problem.”

TOPEKA, Kan. Kansas senators approved three bills impacting education Tuesday morning.

Lawmakers approved Senate Bill 496, a bill establishing the "Parents Bill of Rights," with a 24-15 vote. Additionally, a bill allowing nonresident students to transfer between public school districts (Senate Bill 455) was approved 23-16. The senate also voted 27-12 to approve a bill barring transgender students from participating in women's sports.

Parents Bill of Rights

Kansas lawmakers have progressed a bill to establish a Parents Bill of Rights. SB 496 outlines 12 tenets granting parents the ability to review and object to the curriculum or materials used in their child's classroom.

If the bill becomes law, school districts would be required to create policies allowing parents the option to inspect classroom lessons, syllabi, surveys, tests, questionnaires, exams, books, magazines or any additional materials used in the classroom.

According to the text of the bill, parents could object to any material or activity on the basis that it's harmful to the child or "impairs the parent's firmly held beliefs, values or principles."

Parents would also reserve the right to challenge any book, magazine or other resource available to students in the school library and petition for its removal.

Democratic Sen. Cindy Holscher, who represents Overland Park, voted against the bill, saying she feels there is a disconnect between the day-to-day operations of public schools and the perspectives of legislatures.

"This bill was brought forward as the result of dark money groups working to undermine public schools and our teachers and is not something actual parents of public school children have requested," Holscher said.

Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes also voted against the bill.

"The Parents Bill of Rights capitalizes on national figures' successful manipulation of parents' anxieties around learning and growing by suggesting that our public schools, which are subject to strict oversight by the state, are hiding nefarious materials used to brainwash our children," Sykes said.

"This is a list of demands modeled after national legislation that co-ops civil rights language in order to undermine our public school teachers and districts that teach and care for Kansas kids."

Sen. Beverly Gossage, a Eudora Republican, supported the bill, saying as a former educator she feels parents should be informed on what's going on in the classroom.

"When a problem arises, it's usually because (parents) have started to lose trust. We are just trying to build back that trust among our hardworking teachers and parents that are just concerned for their children," Gossage said.

Student transfers

Currently Kansas public school districts typically accept student transfers on a case-by-cases basis. SB 455 would require school districts to accept transfer applications from students living outside the district boundary based on school capacity.

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, nonresident students would be allowed to switch school districts if there is space available. If there are more students applying than the number of spaces available in a specific grade level, then the district would use a lottery system to determine which students would be accepted.

"What we did was we helped come up with the framework, policy and a process that parents could count on, but always left it with that local control," Sen. Molly Baumgardner, R-Louisburg, said. "The school district would perform their building assessments. They would determine if there was any room at the inn for students from out of district. Locally there would always be that control."

Students would have the option to transfer up to two times per school year. The proposed bill prohibits the district from charging nonresident students tuition or any fees that aren't applied to students living within the district. The district would not be required to provide transportation for students living outside the district boundary.

Opponents to the bill, including the State Board of Education, have voiced concerns about an influx of student transfers adding strain to districts experiencing teacher shortages.

School districts would be able to reject a student's transfer request if the district is at capacity, or the student living outside the district has a history of suspension, expulsion or a high absenteeism rate.

Transgender student athletes

SB 484 establishes the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, preventing transgender students from participating in women's athletics.

The proposed bill requires any K-12 public school, as well as any public college or university, designate sports teams into one of three categories based biological sex to reflect:

** Males, to include men or boys.*

** Females, to include women or girls.*

** Co-Ed or Mixed, to include multiple genders.*

The bill requires college and university sports teams to only compete against other collegiate teams with the same classification. The bill also prohibits students of the male sex from participating in sports or activities designated for females, women or girls.

"The Kansas Legislature needs to stop bullying transgender kids," Sen. Tom Holland said.

Democratic Sen. Jeff Pittman, who represents Leavenworth, said regulations for transgender student athletes should be left up to the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHAA).

"This bill unfairly targets elementary kids, all the way down to kindergarten, and originally contained genital inspections, which goes too far for me," Pittman said.

"It targets a population in broad strokes that is at higher risk of suicide. It has economic risks for Kansas with regard to factoring against us for NCAA, FIFA and other tournaments. This bill on transgender athletes was a solution in search of a problem."

All three bills will now move on to the House. If any of the bills are vetoed by Gov. Laura Kelly, it would require 27 votes of support in the Senate and 84 votes of support in the House to override her veto. (Source: FOX - 4 WDAF, March 22, 2022)

In a 2022 New York Times article exposing how lobbyists engineered sports gambling in Kansas, Jeff Pittman was mentioned as enjoying himself at lobbyist party and quite moved by cigars.

“Even skeptics of the legislation were enjoying themselves at the party. ‘The fact is, we’re not making that much money,’ Senator Jeff Pittman, Democrat of Leavenworth, said, referring to the fact that most of the tax revenue was going to the stadium. ‘It looks terrible.’ One of the “yes” votes belonged to Mr. Pittman, who had snagged an extra bag of cigars barely 48 hours earlier and had called the package “terrible.”

‘It’s not like a majority of people in my district bet on sports, but the people who do are very, very vocal,’ he explained afterward. ‘Even when I am just posting on Facebook, I get replies: When is sports betting coming?’”

-“Moments earlier, Mr. Pittman had dispatched an aide to the entrance of the party to fetch more cigars; they were so expensive that each guest was being given only three. His aide laughed nervously, then fetched the cigars. ‘I have a little scam going on here,’ Mr. Pittman joked to a Times reporter.”

Full Article below....

Cigars, Booze, Money: How a Lobbying Blitz Made Sports Betting Ubiquitous

TOPEKA, Kan. — Representative John Barker, a cattle breeder, retired judge and chairman of one of the most powerful committees in the Kansas legislature, had a glass of 30-year Redbreast Irish whiskey in his hand and a Don Tomas cigar from Honduras in his mouth.

Both had been passed to him as he entered a party a few blocks from the State Capitol. It was co-sponsored by lobbyists who had recently turned to Mr. Barker for help legalizing sports betting in Kansas.

“They keep a special bottle for me up there — they know I like it,” he said of the lobbyists as he surveyed the crowded room. “I’m in my element when I have a whiskey and a cigar.”

It was the eve of the vote on Mr. Barker’s long-debated gambling bill, a muggy spring night in April. This was the latest stop in a relentless nationwide campaign to bring sports betting to [tens of millions](#) of mobile phones, in what has been the fastest expansion of legalized gambling in American history.

Less than five years ago, betting on sports in the United States was prohibited under federal law except in Nevada casinos and a smattering of venues in other states. Sports leagues argued that the ban safeguarded the integrity of American sports, while consumer watchdogs warned that legal gambling could turn fans into addicts. In countries like Britain, sports gambling free-for-all had left trails of addiction.

But in 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal prohibition was unconstitutional.

DraftKings and FanDuel, giants in the fast-growing field of fantasy sports, had already mobilized an army of former regulators and politicians to press for sports betting in state capitals. Soon, in a crucial reversal, sports leagues overcame their antipathy toward gambling, which they came to see as a way to keep increasingly distracted audiences tuned in. Casino companies also hopped on board.

It was a market, the industry hoped, that could be worth billions a year. And so they set out to seize it.

Gambling companies and their allies deployed a bare-knuckled lobbying campaign, showering state lawmakers with money, gifts and [visits](#) from sports luminaries and at times using deceptive arguments to extract generous tax breaks and other concessions, according to a New York Times investigation. It was based on thousands of pages of documents and communications obtained in part through open-records requests and interviews with dozens of industry and state officials.

Industry lobbyists, for example, dazzled lawmakers with projections about the billions of dollars that states could expect to collect in taxes from sports betting — projections that, at least so far, have often turned out to be wildly inflated, according to a Times analysis of state tax data.

The gambling industry managed to scare state lawmakers into keeping tax rates low, in part by trotting out data about a sprawling underworld of illegal gambling. The Times found that those figures, which suggested that Americans were placing as much as \$400 billion of illicit bets each year, were unreliable.

In state after state, while lobbyists for sports-betting firms, casino companies and professional leagues cultivated friendly relationships with lawmakers and regulators, the interests of taxpayers and people at risk of gambling problems were often on the back burner, if they were represented at all.

“We don’t have the manpower that the industry does,” said Brianne Doura-Schawohl, a lobbyist for the National Council on Problem Gambling who has been in more than two dozen state capitals as lawmakers voted on sports-betting packages. “They have gaggles of lobbyists in every state.”

The results of the lobbying campaign have been stunning: [31 states](#) and Washington, D.C., permit sports gambling either online or in person, and five more have passed laws that will allow such betting in the future.

Many of those states did so on terms that were remarkably favorable to the gambling industry.

Few imposed restrictions on companies using promotional offers — such as “risk-free” wagers, in which customers are reimbursed for losing bets — to lure neophyte gamblers. Those tactics have been banned in some countries because of their potential to hook people predisposed to compulsive gambling.

In 18 states, however, the promotions are not only permitted. They are also tax deductible, allowing gambling companies to exclude at least some of the cost of the freebies from their taxable income. In other words, state governments are subsidizing the promotions.

In various states, the gambling industry helped defeat a measure to ban betting ads during sports broadcasts, pushed through legislation that included [minimal funding](#) to fight gambling addiction and derailed a bill to stop two companies run by the same woman from offering both sports bets and [payday loans](#).

Even some of the industry’s onetime backers now say that they paid insufficient attention to the risk that gambling would cause waves of addiction.

The vast and largely unopposed influence of the gambling lobby has been on especially stark display in Topeka this year.

Lawmakers in Kansas rewarded major political donors, some of whom used networks of shell companies and political action committees to skirt campaign finance laws, with legislative handouts and lucrative licenses.

The same month that Mr. Barker was enjoying lobbyists' cigars and whiskey, he was also inserting provisions into the gambling legislation that would transform an already generous bill into what some supporters acknowledged was an outrageous giveaway.

And at the industry's behest, Kansas lawmakers halved the tax rate on gambling companies' revenue. Even as Kansans placed [\\$350 million of bets this fall](#), the state collected less than \$271,000 in taxes.

"These states have leverage — they are just getting outmaneuvered," said Joe Weinert, executive vice president at Spectrum Gaming Group, which analyzes the gambling industry. "The legislators have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to get the maximum amount possible. But these companies are just laughing all the way to the bank."

The rapid rise of online sports betting has radically changed how millions of people consume sports and enabled them to legally engage in potentially addictive behavior from the comfort of their living rooms.

In the first half of this year, Americans placed an average of nearly \$8 billion per month in legal sports bets, compared with less than \$1 billion a month three years earlier, according to [SportsHandle](#), a trade publication. By 2026, some analysts predict, the average could hit \$20 billion a month.

Ads for sports-betting apps [blanket the airwaves](#) and emblazon the walls of stadiums and arenas, some of which let fans place bets at in-person kiosks.

During game broadcasts, betting odds scroll across screens and ads cajole viewers to wager on the outcomes.

One sports network is now [named](#) for a gambling company, while [another](#) is operated by one. Some hosts and reporters spend as much time covering betting on sports as they do covering the sports themselves.

Top NASCAR [drivers](#) and their teams are paid to promote sports betting; [professional baseball](#) and [hockey players](#) recently won their leagues' blessings to sign their own endorsement deals.

Gambling companies and their partners say this shift is providing states much-needed revenue and sports leagues with more-engaged fans at a time of [dwindling viewership](#).

But the gambling industry views sports betting as a steppingstone to an even loftier ambition: the legalization of online casino gambling, in which Americans would be able to wager on poker and other games anywhere with an internet connection. Six states already permit some so-called iGaming, and lobbyists are pressing more states to follow suit.

“It is time for your state to add iGaming,” Jason Robins, the chief executive of DraftKings, told lawmakers at a recent conference that his company sponsored. “Not in the future, but now.”

A Fateful Radio Ad

If you had to pick a moment when the campaign to convince states to legalize sports betting started taking shape, you might choose the day in 2014 when a lobbyist named Jeremy Kudon heard a radio ad about how people could win a “boatload of money” through fantasy sports.

A sports fanatic, Mr. Kudon worked at the international law firm Orrick. His specialty was helping young industries navigate regulatory and legislative challenges in state capitals. He had battled the cable industry on behalf of the [satellite television companies](#) Dish Network and DirecTV. Now he was looking for his next fight.

Fantasy sports — in which people select real professional athletes for imaginary teams that compete based on the statistical performances of players in actual games — had been around for years. But companies like FanDuel and DraftKings were turning it into a big business by allowing people to stake money on their fantasy teams.

The trouble was that by introducing money into the equation, fantasy sports appeared to be crossing the line into sports gambling, which was illegal in most states.

Mr. Kudon pitched FanDuel, whose radio ad he had recently heard, on a strategy to pre-emptively affirm the legality of its service. FanDuel, founded in 2009 after a group of acquaintances hatched the idea at the South by Southwest festival in Texas, hired him. Next, Mr. Kudon signed up DraftKings, which three friends had started in a Massachusetts apartment in 2012.

“We needed a national strategy,” Mr. Kudon said in an interview, recalling his thought process at the time. “We need to go out there and pass 10, 15 bills and get ahead of this.”

An early step was to recruit — and pay — experts to argue to state officials that fantasy sports was not gambling.

One expert paid by DraftKings, [Abraham J. Wyner](#), a University of Pennsylvania statistics professor, testified that in fantasy sports, “players with the most skill will usually and consistently defeat players with less skill.” By that logic, fantasy sports didn’t constitute gambling, which many states defined as a “game of chance.”

Mr. Kudon and his clients assembled an all-star team of lawyers and former government officials, including Martha Coakley, who had been the attorney general of Massachusetts. In testimony to and conversations with state officials, Ms. Coakley and other lobbyists cited arguments made by the industry-bankrolled studies and legal memos.

“We firmly believe that this is a game of skill that is legal in Massachusetts,” Ms. Coakley [told](#) the state Gaming Commission, which proceeded to permit fantasy-sports contests with money riding on the result.

And they began doling out millions in campaign contributions. Since 2016, FanDuel and DraftKings alone have donated more than \$2.6 million to state politicians and political parties, according

to [data maintained](#) by OpenSecrets, a campaign finance watchdog. The companies have spent another \$114 million to try to influence state ballot measures to legalize sports betting.

By the end of 2017, [19 states](#) had passed bills legalizing fantasy sports. Almost all were written with help from Mr. Kudon's team. Most other states continued to allow fantasy sports, without explicitly authorizing it.

In Open Defiance

As Mr. Kudon pushed to permit fantasy sports, a legal battle was underway in New Jersey that would determine whether his clients and others would be able to offer full-fledged sports betting.

In 2012, the state's governor, Chris Christie, signed a bill to legalize sports betting. The goal was to revitalize Atlantic City, whose once-bustling boardwalk casinos were [struggling](#).

But the New Jersey act was in open defiance of a federal law that banned sports betting outside Nevada and a few other locations.

The major U.S. sports leagues, as well as the National Collegiate Athletic Association, [sued](#) to strike down New Jersey's law. They argued that sports betting could cast suspicions on the integrity of athletic competitions.

The Justice Department [sided](#) with the leagues in defense of the federal ban.

At the time, the casino industry was divided over whether to support online gambling. The success of DraftKings and FanDuel persuaded more traditionalists that the days of brick-and-mortar dominance were all but over.

"Fantasy sports had shown us just what the potential was," said Geoff Freeman, who ran the American Gaming Association, a trade group largely composed of casinos, from 2013 to 2018. "We knew we needed to get smarter."

Mr. Freeman assigned staff to study the potential for traditional casinos to get into online sports betting. The group soon released [a study](#) claiming that widely available sports betting could lead to more than 200,000 jobs in the United States.

The gambling association [joined New Jersey](#) in defending its law. The state had already lost six times in various federal courts. Then, in June 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Betting on Pitch Speeds

If the high court ruled in New Jersey's favor, the battle would shift to state capitals — familiar turf for Mr. Kudon, thanks to his years of lobbying for fantasy sports.

The biggest potential hurdle were the sports leagues, Mr. Kudon believed. For a century, the leagues had regarded gambling as radioactive, arguing that the federal ban safeguarded the integrity of American sports. For Major League Baseball in particular, there was a history of scandals involving people like Pete Rose, who was caught betting on his team's games.

In 2017, Mr. Kudon visited Major League Baseball's headquarters in Manhattan with Mr. Robins, the chief executive of DraftKings, according to people familiar with the meeting. The league, Mr. Robins

argued, should join forces with DraftKings and FanDuel. Sports betting was coming, so baseball executives might as well push to legalize it in a manner that granted them some control — and cash.

Some of the executives were receptive. The league's chief legal officer, Dan Halem, noted that one of the sport's weaknesses — the slow pace of its games — could become a strength. The longer games lasted, the more opportunities there would be for in-game betting on things like the [speed of an upcoming pitch](#).

The meeting ended with promises to stay in touch.

On Dec. 4, 2017, the Supreme Court held [oral arguments](#) in the New Jersey case.

Comments from the justices — including Chief Justice [John G. Roberts](#), who in private practice had represented the American Gaming Association — [suggested](#) they were likely to overturn the federal ban.

Mr. Kudon was in the audience, sitting on a wooden bench alongside Mr. Robins. Outside the court afterward, he bumped into Mr. Halem of Major League Baseball.

“We owe you a call,” Mr. Halem told Mr. Kudon.

That follow-up soon came.

Four weeks later, on New Year's Day, Mr. Kudon signed a deal to represent the M.L.B. and N.B.A. It was a coup: At the same time that the leagues were publicly fighting against sports betting at the Supreme Court, they had found common cause with gambling companies that were pushing state lawmakers to allow exactly that. (The Professional Golfers Association Tour would soon hire Mr. Kudon, too.)

In May 2018, the Supreme Court [struck down](#) the federal ban on sports gambling, ruling it infringed on states' rights. It was the moment Mr. Kudon and his clients had been preparing for.

They had already been working with lawmakers in numerous states who were eager to hobnob with current and former sports officials who had been star players.

Lawmakers in states like West Virginia passed “trigger laws” to authorize sports betting as soon as the court's ruling came down. Lawmakers in other states also introduced sports-betting legislation.

Baseball and basketball leagues, sensing an opportunity to make money, had their own set of [demands](#).

One was that they wanted betting companies to be required to use data from the sports leagues. The leagues could then charge for that data.

In Michigan, the leading champion of sports betting in the legislature was Representative Brandt Iden. He was among a group of lawmakers whom the P.G.A. Tour hosted at its headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., for golf, dinner and drinks.

Mr. Iden and his colleagues met there with officials from the tour, the N.B.A. and M.L.B., as well as lobbyists from Mr. Kudon's team, who urged them to require betting companies to use the leagues'

data. Months later, Mr. Iden included that mandate in [the bill](#) he introduced. (He did not respond to requests for comment.)

The bill passed and would become a model in other states. Online sports betting got underway in Michigan in January 2021. Mr. Iden left the legislature and became the top lobbyist for Sportradar, which provides data from the leagues to gambling companies.

Flimsy Figures

To persuade on-the-fence state lawmakers to board the sports-betting bandwagon, the gambling industry disseminated data about how much tax revenue states could expect to receive and how much gambling was already taking place outside of state supervision in illegal markets.

But the statistics, published in opinion pieces, consultants' reports, testimony and legislative filings, do not hold up under scrutiny, *The Times* found.

An estimate that gained especially widespread traction was that Americans illegally wagered up to \$400 billion on sports each year.

Adam Silver, the N.B.A. commissioner, mentioned it in a *Times* [opinion piece](#). A Pennsylvania lawmaker [cited it](#) to argue that the legalization of sports betting “will simply enable Pennsylvania to regulate a multimillion-dollar industry that already exists.” In West Virginia, lawmakers [included](#) a variation of the estimate in a bill to legalize sports betting.

Where did the eye-popping figure come from? The N.B.A. and the American Gaming Association [identified](#) the source as a 1999 report by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, which Congress created to assess the harms of gambling.

“Estimates of the scope of illegal sports betting in the United States range anywhere from \$80 billion to \$380 billion annually,” the report [said](#).

In a footnote, the report attributed the range not to an academic study or even an industry analysis, but to an Associated Press [article](#) from the month before the report was released. That article, in turn, reported that “commissioners were told” the estimate, though it did not indicate by whom.

A [transcript](#) from a commission hearing in 1998 points to the likely source. One of the panel's commissioners, citing unidentified testimony and staff briefings, said that “there's somewhere, depending on whose guesstimate you take, within \$80 to \$380 billion worth of illegal sports gambling.”

“The number is pretty much pulled from the air,” said Koleman S. Strumpf, an economics professor at Wake Forest University who has studied illegal gambling. He said he regretted having cited the figure in a 2003 [paper](#). He added that he stood by one of the paper's conclusions: that illegal sports betting would continue even if sports gambling were legalized.

The American Gaming Association also issued projections of how much tax revenue each state could expect to collect if it legalized sports betting. The estimates were regularly cited during debates in state capitals.

At least so far, many of the projections have turned out to be overly optimistic, according to a Times analysis of state tax revenue through this summer.

The association's consultants predicted, for example, that Virginia could expect to collect an extra \$57 million a year in tax revenue if it legalized mobile sports betting and applied a 15 percent tax rate. That is what Virginia did, but in the most recent 12 months of betting, the state collected only \$38 million.

Other states with large shortfalls included Connecticut, Michigan, West Virginia and Wyoming. Overall, in the 14 jurisdictions that allow mobile sports betting and that have tax rates in the range anticipated by the gambling association, tax revenues over the last 12 months have been nearly \$150 million below the \$560 million the group predicted, The Times found.

The association defended its estimates. It noted that it had at times cited lower estimates for the size of the illegal gambling market. And the group argued that it was too soon to tell how much would be bet or how much states would collect in taxes in the future and that as the market matured, tax revenues would rise. The association also said that some states' restrictions on betting on college sports resulted in lower-than-expected revenue.

But one other reason for the shortfall, the group conceded, was that some states granted the gambling industry's request for a generous tax exemption.

[To lure customers into gambling](#), companies routinely dangle "free bets" and other promotions sometimes totaling thousands of dollars. Bettors can use those credits to make wagers without putting their own money on the line.

At least [seven states](#), as well as Washington, D.C., agreed to let the companies fully deduct this promotional spending from their taxable income. Several other states allowed partial deductions.

In Colorado, Michigan and Pennsylvania this year, the free-bet giveaways were so generous during February — the month of the Super Bowl — that the promotional spending exceeded many platforms' revenues, resulting in them facing, at most, minuscule tax bills that month, according to [SportsHandle](#).

The sports-betting industry has doled out nearly \$1 billion in promotional bets over the last year — costing states more than \$120 million in potential taxes, according to an analysis of the data by The Times and Vixio, a gambling industry compliance company. Frustrated at the scale of tax losses, several states, including [Virginia](#) and [Colorado](#), either capped or began phasing out the exemptions this year.

The analysis by The Times shows that a few states — including New York, which in the first 10 months of the year raked in [\\$545 million](#) in tax revenue from online sports betting — collected far more than the industry anticipated. The common thread: All of those states rejected the industry's advice to tax gambling companies' revenue at 10 percent. Instead, they applied rates as high as 51 percent.

The Location of the Servers

With its huge population and more than a dozen pro sports teams, New York had been a top priority for sports-betting companies. But in 2013, voters had approved an amendment to the state constitution that authorized gambling only at seven casinos, mostly in economically struggling areas upstate.

Mr. Kudon and his team got creative. They argued to state officials that, as long as the computer servers processing bets were physically located at the state-authorized casinos, the bets should be considered to have taken place at the casinos, rather than wherever people initiated the wagers on their phones or computers.

If that argument was accepted, online sports betting could be approved without being considered an expansion of gambling — and without requiring another constitutional amendment.

Critics said that was a willful misinterpretation of the 2013 referendum.

“The whole point originally was to establish destination casinos in economically depressed areas upstate, and they were supposed to be places where the economy would stimulate because people would come and patronize casinos,” said Cornelius D. Murray, a lawyer who has fought the gambling expansions in New York.

At least initially, Andrew Cuomo, the governor at the time, seemed to agree. His staff told sports-betting proponents that it would be unconstitutional to permit online sports gambling statewide, according to Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., a Democrat from Queens.

Mr. Addabbo had sponsored a bill to legalize mobile sports betting, and he decided he “needed ammunition” to counter the arguments from the governor’s office, he said.

Mr. Kudon had that ammunition.

Following his playbook from his fantasy sports days, he and his allies marshaled legal briefs from former state officials arguing that it was the location of the computers, not the bettors, that mattered. Among those who were paid for briefs by gambling companies were two former high-ranking state judges, [James M. McGuire](#) and [Robert S. Smith](#), and Mylan L. Denerstein, who had previously been the governor’s lawyer.

Gambling proponents saw Ms. Denerstein’s endorsement as especially powerful, because of her previous work for Mr. Cuomo. “This is like his chief attorney telling him that he’s wrong,” said J. Gary Pretlow, a Democrat from Westchester County who sponsored a House version of Mr. Addabbo’s bill.

By January 2021, Mr. Cuomo had changed his mind. His annual budget proposal included a provision legalizing mobile sports betting.

A spokesman for Mr. Cuomo said he reversed course because the state, its revenue depleted in part by the pandemic, needed the cash. While Mr. Cuomo’s office initially questioned the constitutionality of mobile sports betting, his legal team ultimately agreed with the industry’s argument.

The Industry’s Fingerprints

In Kansas, lawmakers had been debating sports gambling since 2018, but betting companies held out for sweeter deals, and the bills stalled.

By early this year, [30 other states](#) had approved sports betting. Lawmakers in Topeka decided to try one more time.

In the House, the 50-page bill, sponsored by Mr. Barker, had the gambling industry's fingerprints on virtually every page.

One provision ensured that casino companies would get a cut of sports-betting business.

Another expanded the list of venues where sports betting would be allowed. Among the new sites were a NASCAR racetrack and the stadium of the Sporting Kansas City soccer team.

The racetrack was next to the Hollywood Casino, which in recent years had donated a total of \$60,000 to more than a dozen Kansas politicians and state party committees. [The casino's parent company, Penn Entertainment](#), had hired a fleet of lobbyists to advance the sports-betting bill. Another \$150,000 came to lawmakers from other casinos, lawyers and lobbyists tied to the legalization effort, records show.

The bill had originally included a 20 percent tax on the gambling companies' net revenues from sports betting. That was substantially lower than several other states had imposed.

But lobbyists for Penn and other casino companies claimed that the 20 percent rate would mean less money available to pay out to bettors. That, they warned, would drive more Kansans to illegal gambling websites.

*The warning has not been borne out. Since sports betting was legalized, residents of high-tax states like New York have on average spent as much per capita on gambling as in states with low tax rates, according to the tax data *The Times* analyzed.*

Mr. Barker and other legislative leaders, however, agreed to chop the tax rate in half. Mr. Barker concluded he had no choice. "They've got 26 lobbyists, and they had lobbied all my members," he said.

Powerful Landowners

Mr. Barker, his bifocals sliding down on his nose, stood at the dais at the front of the House chamber. It was just before midnight on April 1, 2022. Reading off notes, he ticked off a few last-minute changes that he and other House leaders had inserted into the sports-betting package.

The changes sounded technical, but they represented lucrative concessions to the gambling industry and key campaign donors.

One new provision would set aside most of the already reduced gambling tax revenue for a special purpose: the construction or renovation of a sports facility for one or more unidentified professional teams.

On the House floor that night, a lawmaker asked Mr. Barker to explain the rationale. "I was asked to carry it by leadership," he replied.

It was a reference to the House speaker, Ron Ryckman Jr. At a subsequent meeting with his colleagues, Mr. Ryckman would say only that the change had come at the request of unspecified “real estate developers,” according to lawmakers who heard his remarks. (Mr. Ryckman did not respond to requests for comment.)

Those developers, The Times found, had much to gain.

The most likely site for the new stadium — envisioned as a possible future home for the Kansas City Chiefs football team, currently located across the Missouri border — was an area west of Kansas City.

The location was already a sports and entertainment hub. Sporting Kansas City’s stadium was there. So were the NASCAR racetrack and the Hollywood Casino.

Another 400 acres of land there were controlled by a company called Homefield LLC, whose owners included executives with Sporting Kansas City, according to property and corporate records. Those executives were drawing up plans to use the 400 acres for a sports and hotel complex.

Just before the 2020 election, Homefield and a network of related companies routed tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to Mr. Ryckman and other legislative leaders, according to campaign disclosures and corporate records. The sums were especially impressive in a state where House lawmakers can take no more than \$500 in the general election from any one donor.

The creation of a major new stadium in the area had the potential to make Homefield’s property more valuable. Homefield executives including Robb Heineman pushed state officials to include the stadium fund, according to lawmakers and Mr. Heineman.

None of this information was disclosed during the legislative debate. The provision was the product of “a background deal that wasn’t even talked about with other Republicans,” said Representative Paul Waggoner, a Republican from Hutchinson. “It is pretty disillusioning, frankly.”

Mr. Heineman denied that the campaign contributions were intended to influence legislation. He said that Homefield didn’t plan to tap into the stadium fund. But he said his partners at Sporting Kansas City will “think of ways that they could utilize this tool.”

Minuscule Taxes

One other important provision had sneaked into the House bill: a tax break, like those in 18 other states, to let gambling companies deduct at least some “free bets” and other promotions from their taxable income.

The break didn’t just relinquish tax dollars; it also financially encouraged a type of marketing that some industry executives now acknowledge fuels addiction.

On the House floor, Pat Proctor, a Republican from Fort Leavenworth, warned that the legalization of online sports betting would ruin lives. Tens of thousands of Kansans already suffered from gambling addictions, he said, including a member of his own family.

“Right now, the only limiting factor on my family member’s addiction is that they have to get up and go to a casino to gamble,” Mr. Proctor said. “What you’re about to do here is make it convenient for gambling addicts to gamble 24 hours a day.”

But the House speaker, the majority leader and the governor, Laura Kelly, a Democrat, had all endorsed the package.

“It is hard to oppose the avalanche,” said Representative Francis Averkamp, a Republican critic of the legislation.

“I feel like somebody was pulling a fast one on me,” added Representative John Carmichael, a Democrat. “And it stinks.” Yet an hour later, he voted for the bill, saying he felt like his constituents supported sports betting.

The House passed the bill by one vote. Now it was headed to the Senate.

‘Cigars, Cars & Bars’

The final days of Kansas’s legislative session in late April are marked by a flurry of receptions for lawmakers, many sponsored by lobbyists looking to get bills squeezed through.

One of the events that week was the Cigars, Cars & Bars party that Mr. Barker attended. An [invitation](#) sent to lawmakers and their aides promised there would be “something for everyone.”

On his way in, Mr. Barker was greeted by John J. Federico and Whitney B. Damron, who had co-sponsored the event and played central roles in the sports-betting deal.

Mr. Federico worked for Sporting Kansas City, one of whose owners had pushed the stadium fund. Mr. Barker wasn’t shy about having added language to the bill that provided an additional benefit to the team owners. Sporting’s soccer stadium would be one of the few places permitted to have kiosks at which fans could place bets.

“John’s a good guy,” Mr. Barker said between sips of the Irish whiskey that had been set aside at his request. “I made sure they had something in our bill.” (Mr. Federico said the party was a social event, not a lobbying opportunity.)

For his part, Mr. Damron had helped lawmakers negotiate a unique provision in the gambling bill, according to several of the lawmakers involved. It would legalize a new form of sports betting: slot-machine-like devices that featured video footage of past horse races. The catch was that the machines would only be permitted at one place: a defunct greyhound racetrack outside of Wichita.

That venue was about to be redeveloped by Phil Ruffin, a prominent Las Vegas casino executive. Mr. Ruffin had personally donated more than \$100,000 to Kansas lawmakers since 2018. And he routed more money through political action committees that helped the campaigns of certain lawmakers who championed the sports-betting bill.

Mr. Damron didn’t work for Mr. Ruffin; his client was Penn Entertainment, which owned the Hollywood Casino. But Mr. Damron reckoned that adding the favor to Mr. Ruffin, given his years of campaign contributions, would yield extra votes for the bill, according to lobbyists and lawmakers involved in the deal.

Even skeptics of the legislation were enjoying themselves at the party.

“The fact is, we’re not making that much money,” Senator Jeff Pittman, Democrat of Leavenworth, said, referring to the fact that most of the tax revenue was going to the stadium. “It looks terrible.”

Moments earlier, Mr. Pittman had dispatched an aide to the entrance of the party to fetch more cigars; they were so expensive that each guest was being given only three. His aide laughed nervously, then fetched the cigars.

“I have a little scam going on here,” Mr. Pittman joked to a Times reporter.

A Deserted Capitol

The Senate vote took place two days later. More than a dozen industry lobbyists paced the marble floors of the capitol rotunda, huddling to compare notes on how lawmakers planned to vote.

It was after midnight, and aside from the lobbyists, the senators and their aides, the Capitol felt deserted. The visiting school groups that regularly toured the building to learn about how democracy works, the crowds of citizens trying to get a moment with their elected representatives — they were gone.

The vote was shaping up to be a nail-biter. Critics took to the Senate floor to warn their colleagues about what legalized sports gambling might do to the state’s most vulnerable residents.

The package, warned Senator Mark Steffen, a Republican from Hutchinson, was going to “destroy people’s lives. We don’t know their names right now. We don’t know what they look like. But we do know it will happen.”

Around 1:30 a.m., it was time to vote.

Sitting in the gallery that overlooks the Senate floor, lobbyists pulled out ballpoint pens to track the yeas and nays.

Six Republicans simply voted “present.” Several lobbyists said this was part of their strategy. A number of the “present” senators had secretly agreed to vote “yes” if the bill was falling short of the 21 votes needed for passage. A text message would be sent, and in an instant, their votes would change.

That wouldn’t be necessary. The [vote was 21 to 13](#).

One of the “yes” votes belonged to Mr. Pittman, who had snagged an extra bag of cigars barely 48 hours earlier and had called the package “terrible.”

“It’s not like a majority of people in my district bet on sports, but the people who do are very, very vocal,” he explained afterward. “Even when I am just posting on Facebook, I get replies: When is sports betting coming?”

Senator Rob Olson, the Republican sponsor of the Senate bill, strode off the chamber’s floor and went straight to the rotunda. He and the lobbyists exchanged hugs and high fives.

“Can you believe it?” Mr. Olson exclaimed to the lobbyists. “We did it!”

Barely four months later, on Sept. 1, Ms. Kelly, the state's governor, arrived at the Hollywood Casino, whose parent company had been a pivotal supporter of the legislation. She was there to place the first legal sports bet in Kansas's history. She wagered \$15 on the Chiefs to win the next Super Bowl.

"I'm glad we were able to move quickly to get this bipartisan effort done in time for football season," Ms. Kelly said, standing alongside a line of smiling casino executives.

In September and October, Kansans placed \$350 million of bets. Because gambling companies spent tens of millions of dollars on tax-deductible promotions, the [state collected less than \\$271,000 in taxes](#). Not a penny has gone to combat problem gambling.

"I didn't think of the consequences," Mr. Barker said when told of the meager tax revenue. "Maybe we need to fix that."

He will not be around to do that. Mr. Barker lost in this year's Republican primary to a candidate who criticized him for going too far to please the gambling industry.

(Source: The New York Times, November 20, 2022)

Hutch Post article about gambling lobbyist incident: "New York Times documented how Rep. John Barker, an Abilene Republican who helped orchestrate the sports gambling package, reveled in 30-year-old Irish whiskey while Sen. Jeff Pittman, a Leavenworth Democrat, secured an extra bag of pricey Honduras cigars. At the party, Pittman called it a "terrible" bill, but he voted in favor it anyway."

TOPEKA - A New York Times investigation into the gambling industry's bare-knuckled lobbying efforts provides insight into concessions Kansas lawmakers provided when they legalized sports betting earlier this year.

Among the revelations from the report, published Sunday as part of a series on "a relentless nationwide campaign" to expand sports betting: Kansas lawmakers slashed an already generous tax rate from 20% to 10%, and exempted some bets from being taxed at all, before passing the sports gambling package after midnight in the final hours of the legislative session.

The final vote came two days after a lobbying event that promised "something for everyone." There, the New York Times documented how Rep. John Barker, an Abilene Republican who helped orchestrate the sports gambling package, reveled in 30-year-old Irish whiskey while Sen. Jeff Pittman, a Leavenworth Democrat, secured an extra bag of pricey Honduras cigars. At the party, Pittman called it a "terrible" bill, but he voted in favor it anyway.

After the law took effect in September, Kansans wagered \$350 million in the first two months yielding just \$271,000 in tax revenue.

Max Kautsch, president of the Kansas Coalition for Open Government, said the New York Times report "drives home the need for greater transparency in the legislative process."

"Kansans should be disappointed to learn this holiday season that our leaders in Topeka are more interested in giving unprecedented tax breaks to the gambling industry than in meeting their fiduciary duties to be good stewards of public funds," Kautsch said.

The sports gambling package exemplifies transparency concerns with the last-minute avalanche of bills the Legislature passes in the closing days of the session, often with unvetted policy provisions inserted under pressure from dark interests.

Kansas Reflector previously reported on this practice, which is designed to avoid public scrutiny.

"Perhaps if Rep. Barker and his allies feared that their constituents would learn about these acts against the public interest in real time," Kautsch said, "rather than months later as the result of a nationwide investigative report that chose to kick off an article totaling thousands upon thousands of words with an anecdote about whiskey and cigars in the Kansas Statehouse, they would think twice before leaving us with lumps of coal each legislative session."

Lobbying rules

The flyer for an April 26 lobbying event invited all 165 legislators and special guests to enjoy prime rib, seafood, desserts, wine, craft beer, fine cigars, classic cars, single malt scotch and single barrel bourbon.

Twenty-one lobbyists sponsored the event, titled Cigars, Cars and Bars, at M&D Classic Car Storage, a few blocks north of the Statehouse on Kansas Avenue.

A New York Times reporter and photographer found Barker with Redbreast Irish whiskey and a Don Tomas cigar from Honduras.

"They keep a special bottle for me up there they know I like it," Barker told the Times. "I'm in my element when I have a whiskey and a cigar."

John Federico, a powerful lobbyist who cosponsored the gathering, told the Times it was a social event and not a lobbying event.

Kansas law provides ample wiggle room for lobbyists and lawmakers and makes it virtually impossible for journalists or the public to document the influence of such an event.

When every lawmaker is invited, lobbyists don't need to itemize the costs on expense reports with the state ethics commission. Rules that restrict gifts to lawmakers provide exemptions for food and beverage.

And while Kansas law forbids gifts that cost more than \$40, the cost of a gift can be split evenly among cosponsors to push it below the legal limit. A group of 10 lobbyists, for example, could provide a \$300 gift such as an expensive bottle of whiskey to a legislator without violating the law.

Additionally, if the cost of a lobbying expense is less than \$2 for a legislator, it doesn't have to be reported. For an event with 165 legislators and 21 sponsors, the threshold would be \$6,930.

Hitting the jackpot

The gambling industry's fingerprints were on nearly every page of the 50-page sports gambling bill, the New York Times reported.

Barker and other legislative leaders agreed to cut in half the planned 20% tax rate already substantially lower than the tax rate in other states. The bill also allows gambling companies to deduct "free bets" and other promotions from their taxable income.

None of the \$271,000 in taxes the state collected on the first \$350 million in bets will be used to fight gambling addiction.

Instead, lawmakers agreed to set aside most of the revenue for the construction of a sports facility. The questionable idea to lure the Kansas City Chiefs across state lines came from real estate developers who own 400 acres of land near the NASCAR racetrack, Sporting Kansas City soccer stadium and Hollywood Casino on the west edge of Kansas City.

The sports gambling package ensured casinos would get a cut of the action and expanded where sports betting is allowed, including at the racetrack and soccer stadium.

Barker wasn't shy about inserting provisions that benefited lobbyists, including Federico, whose clients include Sporting Kansas City.

"John's a good guy," Barker told the Times. "I made sure they had something in our bill."

Hollywood Casino funneled more than \$60,000 in donations to campaign accounts, the Times found. Another \$150,000 came from other casinos, lawyers and lobbyists.

Donors used networks of shell companies to skirt campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money a single candidate can receive, the New York Times reported.

Cover of darkness

The cigars at the April 26 "social event" were so expensive, legislators could only take three.

Pittman dispatched an aide to secure more.

"I have a little scam going on here," Pittman joked to a New York Times reporter.

He acknowledged problems with the gambling package.

"The fact is, we're not making that much money," Pittman said. "It looks terrible."

Two days later, Pittman's "yes" vote helped the Senate pass the bill with the minimum number of votes required.

"Kansans are already betting on sports," Pittman said during the Senate debate. "Many do it on illegal platforms that take money out of the state. Sports betting is not for everyone. This is just another avenue for avid players."

Lawmakers were forced to consider votes on a wide array of legislation in the final two days of the session, including bills that had undergone rapid transformation. The official explanations provided to lawmakers seldom reveal the true effect of these last-minute, late-night deals, let alone the influence behind them.

The final hours of the session also included votes on the state budget, a \$1.1 billion investment in the state pension system and a law that would have banned any state or local government official from imposing a mask mandate in response to an infectious disease outbreak.

During the debate on sports gambling, opponents raised concerns about gambling addiction, the paltry amount of state tax revenue generated and the decision to set aside most of that cash for a special fund to attract the Kansas City Chiefs to Kansas.

"We will destroy people's lives," said Sen. Mark Steffen, R-Hutchinson. "We don't know their names right now. We don't know what they look like. But we do know that will happen."

(Source: Hutch Post, November 26, 2022)

Pittman spoke out against an effort to block Kansas colleges from asking applicants about DEI. Pittman quote: "This is a broad, overreaching policy"

TOPEKA — Salina Sen. J.R. Claeys convinced colleagues on the Senate budget committee Thursday to block public post-secondary institutions in Kansas from asking applicants about diversity, equity and inclusion, asserting those questions were part of a radical attempt at reverse discrimination. The provision inserted into a budget bill would apply to University of Kansas, Kansas State University and at least the four other Kansas Board of Regents universities because they would be in line to receive state general tax dollars in the 2024 and 2025 fiscal year budgets. Reach of the Claeys amendment wasn't clear, because community colleges, technical colleges, independent colleges and Washburn University also received state funding.

However, Claeys did declare his amendment wouldn't apply to the private, religious-affiliated colleges in Kansas.

The controversial amendment would need to go through the House and Senate legislative process and, if passed, face a potential veto by Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly. Republicans hold supermajorities in both chambers and might be able to override a Kelly veto.

Claeys, a Republican who also works for Attorney General Kris Kobach, convinced GOP allies on the all-white Senate Ways and Means Committee to accept his amendment as a stand against ideas frequently associated with 'woke' politics and expressed in terms of programs on diversity, equity and inclusion, critical race theory and social-emotional learning.

'DEI, CRT, SEL are all branches of the same rotten tree that stokes division,' Claeys said. 'These are ideological loyalty oaths. This provisio, of course, bans those oaths. These are used to exclude applicants who believe things, like people should be treated equally. They're looking for an equity-type statement, one that involves a form of reverse-racism.'

None of the other Republicans on the Senate committee voting in support of Claeys' provisio, including Senate President Ty Masterson, shared their view during the committee's 20-minute conversation. It was largely an exchange between Claeys and two Democrats.

Democratic Sens. Pat Pettey of Kansas City and Jeff Pittman of Leavenworth said the provision sought by Claeys didn't belong in the Senate's budget bill. They objected to intrusion into hiring practices of public higher education institutions and suggested Claeys should package his proposal in a bill, engage the public in hearings with testimony from proponents and opponents, and move ahead with votes to determine whether the idea had merit.

'We are far from reverse racism,' Pettey said. 'We have a long way to go to think about any kind of reverse racism here. It seems to me this goes very far.'

She balked at the idea that asking a job applicant about views on diversity should be considered a 'radical request' at a higher educational institution.

Pittman said advancing significant changes to hiring practices of colleges and universities without a full vetting was improper.

'This is a broad, overreaching policy,' Pittman said. 'Maybe the senator has an idea here that could be explored. Maybe those apples aren't as rotten as he says, maybe they are.'

Sen. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgwick, voted 'pass' on the Claeys amendment, which was seconded by Sen. Michael Fagg, R-El Dorado. She said implications of a ban on ideological questions in the hiring process needed to be clarified.

'Obviously, we give money to private schools as well and it won't impact them,' McGinn said. 'I'm not an employment attorney and don't have any background in that area. I just need to understand the whole thing.'

Jon Rolph, chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, said the board's staff was analyzing the provision introduced by Claeys to understand the potential impact on the state's public universities, technical colleges and community colleges.

'The regents value diversity,' Rolph said. 'As our state becomes increasingly diverse, it is imperative that all Kansans have equal opportunities for access and success at our colleges and universities.' In response to questions from senators on the committee, Claeys said his amendment was intended to forbid hiring considerations based on 'any ideology.'

Specifically, Claeys said his goal was to delete requirements an individual 'induce, solicit or encourage the applicant, employee, student or contractor to endorse any ideology, including the ideology of diversity, equity or inclusion, or provide a statement articulating their experience, commitment to or expertise in diversity, equity or inclusion.'

Claeys said the provision would forbid a public higher education institution from providing 'differential consideration' to applicants, students or contractors associated with statements on an ideology, including diversity, equity or inclusion.

He pointed to a listing at KU for an assistant professor of communications who would be expected to 'describe your experiences working with people from diverse backgrounds and explain how these experiences reflect your commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.'

A Kansas State posting for an assistant professor of physics required a statement from applicants on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging as well as information about an applicant's contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion in teaching and research, Claeys said.

'These DEI oaths are veiled litmus tests to ascertain support for radical race-focused ideologies,' Claeys said. 'For instance, if one believes that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their race, they would not meet that test and would be excluded.'

Pettey said the Claeys amendment suggested the Legislature ought to comb through all the budget bills to make certain public tax dollars weren't appropriated to private colleges or universities that wouldn't have to abide by the same employment policy restraints.

(Source: Kansas Reflector, March 3, 2023)

Pittman, the Leavenworth Democrat, offered a unique blend of policy in an attempt to convince Senate Republicans to embrace Medicaid expansion.

His amendment, soundly defeated, would have brought hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to Kansas by elevating availability of Medicaid services. His idea was to maneuver through the state budget in a way that freed up \$65 million to give state employees a 5% raise.

'It is high time we expand KanCare,' Pittman said. 'It's high time we support our public employees.' Billinger, who chairs the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said legislation providing for Medicaid expansion should go through the normal committee process. The Senate hasn't conducted a Medicaid expansion hearing in the past two years, a reflection of GOP opposition to adding as many as 150,000 people to the Medicaid roll.

The Senate accepted an amendment from Democratic Sen. Pat Pettey of Kansas City to allow eight community mental health centers seeking special certification to access state funding immediately rather than wait until July 2024. The state had so far allowed a maximum of nine community health centers to proceed with the transition. The Senate rejected Pettey's amendment to increase child care funding by \$1 million. (Source: Kansas Reflector, March 19, 2023)

Pittman spoke out and [voted against the final version of SB172](#), which would keep Chinese companies and foreign adversaries from owning real estate. Pittman was quoted in the article: “It makes me suspicious about whether we need to enact this legislation today”

The Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature on Tuesday approved a measure that will largely ban companies from China and other foreign adversaries from owning real estate, likely blocking a sprawling facility under construction in Johnson County.

The legislation appears intended to thwart Cnano Technology, a U.S. subsidiary of a Chinese firm that is building a \$95 million, 333,000-square-foot facility in the business park of New Century AirCenter. Republicans have been voicing fears for months about the potential for foreign influence by Cnano and other companies.

The House on Monday approved the legislation, SB 172, on an 86-39 vote. The Senate followed Tuesday in a 24-14 vote, sending the bill to Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly for her signature or veto.

The measure comes amid growing U.S. concern over foreign influence as China and the United States compete for dominance and Russia continues its invasion of Ukraine, which receives significant American aid. President Joe Biden recently signed a foreign aid bill into law that will lead to a ban on Chinese-owned TikTok if the app is not sold, a development supporters of the Kansas bill pointed to this week.

"This is a very serious issue and if we can get bipartisan support at the federal level for TikTok, we should be able to do it here in Kansas," said Rep. Sean Tarwater, a Stilwell Republican who chairs the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee.

The Kansas legislation with limited exceptions bans citizens and companies - along with subsidiaries - of China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Venezuela from owning non-residential real estate within 100 miles of any military installation amid fears of foreign interference and espionage.

The radius would effectively apply the restrictions to most areas of the state, given the presence of McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Fort Riley near Junction City, and Fort Leavenworth. The Army Reserve also has a presence at New Century.

"I don't have a choice on that. We have a military base there," Rep. William Sutton, a Gardner Republican whose district includes the Cnano site, said of his support for the measure.

While Kelly hasn't said whether she will veto the measure, Democrats largely opposed it. Kelly previously vetoed a bill that would prohibit government agencies from purchasing drones made by - or with parts from - countries "of concern," citing overly broad language in the legislation.

This week marked the second time lawmakers tried to pass the measure. In early April, the House passed a similar bill but the Senate came one vote short.

The bill passed Tuesday would require any "foreign principal" - defined as any government official, any political party member, corporation, or citizen - of a foreign adversary to divest, in other words, sell-off, real estate holdings within the 100-mile radius. Property owners could seek permission from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a federal panel that reviews transactions that could lead to a U.S. business coming under foreign control, to keep their land.

The bill does not apply to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, but would otherwise apply to citizens of foreign adversary countries, even if they are in the United States legally.

Under the Kansas legislation, foreign principals affected by the legislation would have until the end of September to register their property with the Kansas Attorney General's Office. The landowners would then enter into agreements with the office to divest their holdings within a year.

Attorney General Kris Kobach, a Republican, would be empowered to investigate violations of the law and could seek court orders to force companies or individuals to surrender their property.

The measure allows foreign principals who own land before July 1, 2024, to file a claim against the state if divestiture leads to a reduction in the sales price. The special claims process allows - but does not guarantee - that the Legislature will approve a payment.

Sen. Jeff Pittman, a Leavenworth Democrat, said lawmakers should work with the military and other federal agencies to develop a better version of the legislation. He said he hadn't heard from anyone in the Department of Defense or elsewhere in the federal government telling him that Kansas needs to improve security around military bases.

"It makes me suspicious about whether we need to enact this legislation today," Pittman said.

Critics of the bill have voiced concerns about its constitutionality given that it allows for the taking of private property without guaranteed compensation. Johnson County Democrats have raised particular concern about the potential economic impact to the county if Cnano is forced to abandon the plant, which is expected to employ about 120 workers.

The Cnano plant has been at the center of the debate over the bill. The company makes carbon nanotubes and graphene, which are used in electric car batteries, and its Kansas investment comes after Panasonic announced plans to create a \$4 billion electric battery plant in nearby De Soto.

Company officials have said accusations of foreign influence hold "no semblance of reality."

"Contrary to what's being portrayed, Cnano poses absolutely no threat," Shawn Montgomery, president of Cnano Technology USA, said in March. "The notion that CNANO USA could be used as a conduit to steal America's military and intellectual secrets is completely incorrect."

J. Pieratt, a partner at DLA Piper, which is serving as outside counsel to Cnano, said in a statement on Tuesday said the company is disappointed by the bill's passage, which he said endorses "a blanket decree of 'guilty' for many businesses across Kansas, with absolutely no opportunity to prove there are no ill-intentions or threats to national security."

"With no Legislative review or due diligence of any kind the Kansas Legislature is forcing companies both large and small to divest their property and lawful investments and leave the state," Pieratt said. "We chose Kansas as a favorable place to do business, have followed the letter of the law, invested tens of millions of dollars into a state-of-the-art facility to support the emerging electric battery industry, and have brought both construction and permanent jobs to Kansas. Beyond disappointing, this is wrong, unfair, and unconstitutional."

At least 15 states enacted restrictions on foreign ownership of real property during the first six months of 2023, according to a July report from the Congressional Research Service. Members of Congress are also weighing federal legislation.

Last March, U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican, cosponsored a bill to prevent China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea from owning U.S. agricultural land and companies, though the president would have the ability to allow purchases on a case-by-case basis if vital to national security interests.

The bill would also place the U.S. secretary of agriculture on the Committee for Foreign Investment in the United States to review transactions involving the agricultural industry. It has yet to receive a vote in committee. (Source: The Kansas City Star, April 30, 2024)

Key Liberal Votes flagged by the American Conservative Union

HB 2100 — Protecting Kansas' State Funds from ESG-Obsessed Companies

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill prohibits fiduciaries acting on behalf of Kansas' public employee retirement system from investing funds in order to further ESG goals. CPAC opposes the involvement of ESG in the government's decision-making processes and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on April 6, 2023 by a vote of 27-12 and the bill later became law.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_HB_2100_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230406151935_643567/)

HB 2094 — Favorable Changes to Kansas' Food Assistance Programs

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill requires individuals between the ages of 50 and 59 who are applying for food assistance to complete an employment and training program in order to become eligible to receive such assistance. CPAC supports efforts to ensure that food assistance programs not be exploited by wrongdoers and supported this bill. The Senate overrode Governor Kelly's veto of this bill on April 27, 2023 by a vote of 28-12 and the bill later became law.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_HB_2094_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230427105542_162005/)

SCR 1603 — Urging President Biden to Protect America's Long-term Energy Needs

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This resolution urges President Biden to reject unscientific environmental mandates and to implement policies that will increase domestic energy production. CPAC supports appropriate efforts to increase the US' energy independence and supported this resolution. The Senate passed this bill on April 4, 2023 by a vote of 29-10.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SCR_1603_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230404144926_212057/)

SB 314 — Fighting COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Environment from requiring that children receive a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go to school. CPAC supports efforts to reduce bureaucratic overreach, believes that the decision to receive the vaccine should be made as voluntary as possible, and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 24-16 but the bill stalled in the House.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SB_314_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230329124630_718489/)

SB 180 — Women’s Bill of Rights in Kansas

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill codifies the biological definition of “sex” into state law. CPAC supports opposition to radical Leftist notions about gender and sex and supported this bill. The Senate overrode Governor Kelly’s veto of this bill on April 26, 2023 by a vote of 28-12 and the bill later became law.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SB_180_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230426150454_940900/)

SB 169 — Significant Cut in the Individual Income Tax

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill reduces the individual income tax rate for all individuals to 5.15%. CPAC supports broad and flat tax rates and supported this bill. The Senate sustained Governor Kelly’s veto of this bill on April 26, 2023 by a vote of 26-14.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SB_169_S)

(Source for vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230426150008_360628/)

SB 91 — Enriching Woke Hollywood Producers

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill establishes various financial incentives for the film industry. CPAC opposes the subsidization of woke film productions and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 23, 2023 by a vote of 28-7 but the bill stalled in the House.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SB_91_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230223221300_328479/)

SB 26 — No Radical Gender Surgeries for Minors in Kansas

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill allows individuals to bring a lawsuit against physicians who provide gender “reassignment” surgeries to minors. It also authorizes the state to revoke the licenses of such physicians. CPAC opposes the mutilation of minors and supported this bill. The Senate sustained Governor Kelly’s veto of this bill on April 26, 2023 by a vote of 26-14.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_SB_26_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230426151005_365166/)

HB 2238 — Protecting Girls’ Sports in Kansas

2023 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill requires that public schools designate their sports teams as being for males, females, or both (coed). It then prohibits the school from allowing males to play on teams designated for females. CPAC supports efforts to create a safe and fair environment of play in school sports and supported this bill. The Senate overrode Governor Kelly’s veto of this bill on April 5, 2023 by a vote of 28-12 and the bill later became law.

(Source for ACU: http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS_2023_HB_2238_S)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/vote_view/je_20230405145207_393815/)

SB 286 — Protecting Hospitals and Businesses from Frivolous Litigation by Extending COVID-19 Liability Protections

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU recognizes that this measure helps prevent greedy plaintiffs’ attorneys from abusing the legal system which ultimately drives up healthcare and business costs for everyone and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 1, 2022 by a vote of 24-16 but the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB286>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB286/id/1072095>)

SB 160 — Protecting Women’s Athletics from Competition with Men by Basing K-12 Sports on Biological Sex

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU believes all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and have the same opportunities under the law. ACU also recognizes that there are numerous standard classifications in sports (such as age, weight, etc.) to ensure fair competition. Therefore, ACU supports ensuring fair competition among teams competing across the state and supported this bill. The Senate voted to override the Governor's veto on April 26, 2022 by a vote of 28-10. (The House failed to override the Governor's veto.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB160>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB160/id/1192643>)

SB 150 — Reducing Lawsuit Abuse by Limiting Deceptive Legal Advertisements

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports free speech as protected under the First Amendment, including advertising; however, criminal fraud cannot be dressed up as free speech and must be prevented. Therefore, ACU supports efforts to prevent lawsuit abuse resulting from unsubstantiated and misleading legal advertisements which ultimately comes at the expense of consumers and taxpayers and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 1, 2022 by a vote of 27-13 and the bill was signed into law.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB150>)

(Source for Vote: https://kslegislature.org/li_2022/b2021_22/measures/vote_view/je_20220401144948_254846/)

SB 34 — Protecting Individual Liberties Through a Prohibition on Government Imposed Mask and Vaccination Mandates

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good. ACU supports this measure to ensure the legislative branch remains in control of masking and other mandates as opposed to unaccountable bureaucrats and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 28, 2022 by a vote of 23-17 but the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB34>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB34/id/1196147>)

HCR 5014 — Combatting Bureaucratic Overreach Through a Constitutional Amendment Providing Legislative Oversight of Administrative Rules and Regulations

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports strengthening government integrity and accountability through this legislative check on the powers of the executive branch and unaccountable bureaucrats and supported this resolution. The Senate passed the resolution on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 27-12. (Voters rejected the proposed amendment on November 8, 2022.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-HCR5014>)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li_2022/b2021_22/asures/vote_view/je_20220324021827_428970/)

HB 2448 — Promoting Self Sufficiency Through Work and Training Requirements for Work-Ready Adults Ages 18-49 Seeking Food Stamps

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports efforts to help work-ready individuals live more prosperous lives by reducing government dependency, which oftentimes leads to intergenerational poverty and supported this bill. The Governor's veto was overridden by the Senate on April 28, 2022 by a vote of 29-11.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-HB2448>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2448/id/1195664>)

HB 2087 — Combatting Excessive Regulations by Expanding Economic Impact Reporting to Cover Regulation Above \$1 Million (Previously \$3 Million)

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU has long supported the federal REINS Act (Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny) and greater oversight of costly regulations and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 31, 2022 by a vote of 34-4 and the bill was signed into law.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-HB2087>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2087/id/1180916>)

SB 493 — Protecting Consumer Choice by Prohibiting Localities from Banning Plastic Straws, Bags, and Containers

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU opposes unnecessary mandates which drive up business and consumer costs in order to advance a Leftist politicized environmental agenda and supported this bill. The Senate voted to override the Governor's veto on April 26, 2022 by a vote of 27-12. (The House failed to override the Governor's veto.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB493>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB493/id/1192785>)

SB 489 — Protecting Individual Liberties by Ensuring the Legislature Oversees Pandemic Shutdown and Not the Secretary of Health and Unelected Bureaucrats

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 24-15. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB489>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB489/id/1175712>)

SB 347 — Enriching Woke Corporations Through a New "APEX Program" which Socializes over \$800 Million of Panasonic's Private Business Costs onto Taxpayers

2022 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with as low of rates as possible for everyone. ACU opposes this cronyism which enriches and provides a competitive advantage to select large companies (including Panasonic and other Woke Corporations) while socializing costs onto small businesses and other taxpayers not favored by government. ACU finds the Panasonic "deal" particularly egregious considering Kansans are being forced to subsidize the Left's quest to force motorists into electric vehicles and war on the internal combustion engine and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 9, 2022 by a vote of 31-9 and the bill was signed into law.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB347>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB347/id/1386331>)

SB 24 — Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas

2021 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill strengthens property rights by ensuring localities cannot infringe the utility choices of developers and property owners. This bill, which prohibits local policies which restrict natural gas or propane, is in response to local governments in California, Washington, and Massachusetts which have banned natural gas in new residential developments. ACU supports all sources of energy, does not believe government should favor one source of energy over another and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 25, 2021 by a vote of 30-10 and the bill became law without the governor's signature.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB24>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB24/id/1037760>)

SB 55 — Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men

2021 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill would protect the institution of women's athletics by requiring all public primary, secondary, and higher education institutions to maintain separate competition for female and male students. Under the bill, athletes participating in public school athletics, or in athletics part of an interscholastic association sponsored by a public school, would be required to compete according to their biological sex at birth. Additionally, the bill would prohibit governmental entities, athletic associations, and accrediting and licensing organizations from imposing any penalties on educational institutions which abide by the provisions of the bill. ACU recognizes that there are numerous standard classifications in sports (such as age, weight, etc.) to ensure fair competition. Therefore, ACU supports ensuring fair competition **among teams competing across the state and** supported this bill. The Senate failed to override the governor's veto of the bill on May 3, 2021 by a vote of 26-14. (A two-thirds vote was required to override the veto.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SB55>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB55/id/1067676>)

SR 1717 — Combatting Gov. Kelly's Overreaching Statewide Mask Mandates

2021 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This resolution strengthens individual liberties by preventing Gov. Kelly from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates. Instead, this resolution maintains that local governments maintain the legal authority to take any action related to face coverings deemed necessary to protect public safety. ACU supports protecting constitutional rights, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this resolution. The Senate passed the resolution on March 31, 2021 by a vote of 29-11.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-SR1717>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SR1717/id/1042493>)

HB 2104 — Protecting Property Owners from Excessive Taxation by Reforming the Appeals Process

2021 — Kansas Senate

Vote Description

This bill protects taxpayers by prohibiting either the Board of Tax Appeals, or the county commission, from increasing the appraised valuation of property as a result of an appeal or an informal meeting. Additionally, this bill provides reforms of the appraisal process by requiring new standards and training for appraisers and members of the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA). ACUF's Center for 21st Century Property Rights is a leading voice on this issue and works to protect property owners from losing their properties through excessive taxation. ACU supports ensuring that taxpayers have a reasonable process to appeal excessive property assessments and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 31, 2021 by a vote of 25-14 and the bill was signed into law.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-senate-HB2104>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2104/id/1042431>)

HB 2503 — Placing Taxpayers at Risk by Recklessly Expanding State Pension Benefits

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Benson (ACUF Lifetime 26%) amendment (2822) to the pension funding bill would further place taxpayers at risk of out-of-control state pension costs under the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) by increasing pension payouts beyond the contracted terms and despite the program's massive \$9.2 billion in unfunded liabilities. Under the amendment, retirees would receive an additional 3% of their retirement benefits, or an additional \$200 monthly, whichever is less. ACU recognizes that public pension systems across the country, including KPERs, place taxpayers at risk because they are based on designated benefits rather than designated contributions. ACU opposes hiking pension payouts especially when the increase was never contracted and the state's pension system is in an even worse condition than California's spendthrift program and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on February 25, 2020 by a vote of 48-74.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-house-HB2503-Amd2822>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2503/id/933516>)

HB 2168 — Hiking Taxes on Hospitals in Order to Extract More Federal Funds from the Federal Medical System

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill hikes a tax imposed on hospitals in order to game the federal Medicaid system and extract even more revenue from federal taxpayers. Specifically, the bill increases the hospital provider assessment from 1.83% to 3% of revenue (63.9% increase) and expands the tax to include outpatient net operating revenue. ACU recognizes this scheme has provided competitive advantages to certain hospitals while harming others and further recognizes that the Health Care Access Improvement Program (HCAIP) where this additional revenue is channeled, has a history of cronyism in its fund disbursement. ACU opposes driving up costs for both federal taxpayers and the health care system by gaming Medicaid and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 19, 2020 by a vote of 91-24 and the bill was signed into law.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-house-HB2168>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2168/id/953487>)

HB 2016 — Placing Unreasonable COVID-19 Contraction Liabilities on Taxpayers

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Pittman (ACUF Lifetime 40%) amendment (9150) to the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) compromise response bill would place unreasonable new liabilities on taxpayers pertaining to the contraction of the virus and death of state Department of Corrections employees. Specifically, the amendment would amend the Workers Compensation Act to create a “rebuttable presumption” that a correctional employee who dies from COVID-19 contracted the virus due to their employment. As a result, taxpayers would face the difficult burden of proof to show that the contraction was not due to employment but from another aspect of an **employee’s public or private life**. ACU opposes subjecting taxpayers to unreasonable new levels of legal liability and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 3, 2020 by a vote of 57-63.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-house-HB2016-Amd9150>)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li_2020s/b2020s/measures/vote_view/je_20200603200644_713243/)

HB 2016 — Infringing Property Rights by Imposing a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures during COVID-19

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Clayton (ACUF Lifetime 19%) amendment to the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) compromise response bill would infringe property rights by imposing a moratorium on most foreclosures and evictions during COVID-19. Specifically, the amendment would impose the moratorium due to vaguely defined “financial hardships” related to COVID-19. ACU opposes this attack on property rights, opposes exploiting government-imposed shutdowns to foist the costs of socialized housing onto landlords and lenders and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 3, 2020 by a vote of 40-76.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-house-HB2016-Amd9145>)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li_2020s/b2020s/asures/vote_view/je_20200603204548_103847/)

HR 6031 — Blocking Governor Kelly’s Abuse of Power and Planned Expansion of “Green” Energy Investment

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This resolution blocks Governor Kelly’s executive reorganization order 46 which would have replaced the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) with the Kansas Energy Office controlled by the Office of the Governor. This bureaucratic shakeup would enable the governor to exert greater control over the agency to advance a liberal energy agenda. To that end, the governor’s announcement of her power-grab states that the new entity’s duties would be expanded to include “renewable energy development” and “energy efficiency,” two liberal buzzwords which indicate she plans to restrict consumer energy options, thus driving up costs and likely providing crony taxpayer-funded handouts to government-favored “renewable” energy developers. ACU supports all sources of energy, does not believe government should not support one source of energy over another and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on March 18, 2020 by a vote of 74-44.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-house-HR6031>)

(Source for Vote:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li_2020/b2019_20/asures/vote_view/je_20200318115355_761512/)

SB 22 — Preventing a \$500 Million Tax Hike by Conforming the Kansas Tax Code to Federal Law

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill would conform the state tax code to federal law to prevent an unintentional \$500 million tax increase. The bill is in response to federal tax code reforms under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Under the bill, individuals would be permitted to itemize deductions for state income taxes, even if they do not itemize deductions for federal income taxes. Additionally, the bill would decouple the state code from federal law in regards to “global intangible low-taxed income” (GILTI), thus ensuring income earned overseas is not also taxed at the state level. The bill also establishes an internet sales tax for large remote sellers such as Amazon, thereby removing a competitive advantage that was provided to select companies. To offset the new sales tax, the bill reduces the tax imposed on food by 1% (6.5% to 5.5%). ACU supports reducing tax burdens and applying taxes as broadly as possible to ensure the lowest possible rates for everyone and that no individual company or industry is provided with a competitive advantage and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 8, 2019 by a vote of 76-43 but the bill was vetoed by the governor.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2019-house-SB22>)

(Source for Vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li_2020/b2019_20/measures/vote_view/je_20190308084534_667513/)

HB 2118 — Socializing Student Loan Debt of State Employees

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Alcala (ACUF Lifetime 23%) amendment to a tax credit bill would drive up taxpayer costs by socializing the student loan debt of state employees. Under the amendment, state employees who make payments on students loans would be eligible to receive tax credits against their state personal income tax liability. The amendment would provide credits up to 15% of the principal and interest a state employee pays against their loans. ACU recognizes Kansas state employees are already among the best-compensated workers in the state and that this lucrative new benefit would be extended to university administrators, many of whom receive hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars annually. ACU believes subsidizing the cost of higher education represents the largest transfer of wealth from lower-income individuals to higher-income individuals and believes instead society should reduce the exorbitant cost of higher education by eliminating wasteful programs and useless administrative positions and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 26, 2019 by a vote of 32-86.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2019-house-HB2118-AlcalaAmd>)

(Source for Vote:

https://kslegislature.org/li_2020/b2019_20/measures/vote_view/je_20190326142912_778059/)

HB 2066 — Preventing Medicaid Expansion Funds from Being Provided to Individuals Residing in the Country Illegally

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Owens (ACUF Lifetime 83%) amendment to a Medicaid expansion bill would prevent taxpayers from being forced to provide health insurance coverage for individuals who reside in the country illegally. Under the amendment, all new enrollee-applicants to the KanCare Bridge (Medicaid expansion) would be submitted to the e-verify system operated by the federal Department of Homeland Security to verify lawful presence in the country. ACU opposes reducing resources for American citizens by providing taxpayer-funded benefits to individuals who reside in the country illegally and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 20, 2019 by a vote of 61-63. (The underlying bill failed to advance in the Senate.)

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2019-house-HB2066-OwensAmd>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2066/id/825556>)

HB 2228 — Preventing a Tax Increase by Conforming the State Tax Code with Federal Law

2018 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill is designed to stop a tax increase by conforming the state's tax code with changes in federal tax law. Under the bill, the Kansas standard deduction is increased by 25 percent, and caps on itemized deductions are phased in more rapidly. Additionally, taxpayers may itemize deductions on their state tax returns, even if they use the standard deduction on their federal return. ACU supports protecting taxpayers from unnecessary tax hikes and providing the greatest possible tax relief and supported the bill. The House defeated the bill on May 4, 2018 by a vote of 59-59.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2018-house-HB2228>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2228/id/749287>)

HB 2079 — Hiking Insurance Fees

2017 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill increases fees on health insurance companies in order to restore cuts made to the reimbursements of KanCare (Medicaid) providers. ACU opposes the practice of increasing insurance costs for everyone to fund government provided health care and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 6, 2017 by a vote of 101-18.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2017-house-HB2079>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2079/id/657507>)

SB 30 — Increasing Income and Business Taxes

2017 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill establishes a new tax bracket and increases income tax rates across the board. Additionally, it eliminates a business tax exemption that covered over 330,000 businesses. All together the bill is expected to increase tax revenue by roughly \$1.2 billion over the next two years. Higher tax burdens suppress economic growth, which reduces family prosperity, as illustrated by the ACU Foundation's Family Prosperity Index. ACU opposes this tax increase, which reverses the reductions made under Governor Brownback and amounts to the largest increase in state history and opposed this bill. The House voted to override the governor's veto on June 6, 2017 by a vote of 88-31.

(Source for ACU: <http://ratings.conservative.org/bills/KS-2017-house-SB30>)

(Source for Vote: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB30/id/658777>)

Other Key Votes

Pittman voted no on a constitutional amendment making it harder to raise taxes in Kansas.

Bill

Bill > SCR1620



KS SCR1620

Proposing a constitutional amendment to require a supermajority for passage of certain bills containing new or increased state taxes.



Views: 15 17 27
In the last WEEK MONTH TOTAL

SUMMARY BILL TEXT ACTIONS **VOTES** DOCUMENTS COMMITTEES

	Motion	Chamber	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Passed	Date
Detail	Senate Final Action - Not adopted - Yea: 25 Nay: 14	Senate	25	14	1	0	Passed	03/23/2022

Showing 1 rows

(Source: <https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1464934>)

Pittman voted against income tax, social security tax and food sales tax relief

Kansas Senate bill 169

Bill Title: House Substitute for SB 169 by Committee on Taxation - providing an income tax rate of 5.15% for individuals and decreasing the normal tax for corporations, increasing the income limit for the income tax subtraction modification for social security income, increasing the standard deduction by a cost-of-living adjustment, discontinuing the food sales tax credit,

Pittman voted against comprehensive tax relief on income, social security and food sales tax four different times in 2023.

SB 169, 2023

Bill Title: House Substitute for SB 169 by Committee on Taxation - providing an income tax rate of 5.15% for individuals and decreasing the normal tax for corporations, increasing the income limit for the income tax subtraction modification for social security income, increasing the standard deduction by a cost-of-living adjustment, discontinuing the food sales tax credit, decreasing the privilege tax normal tax, establishing a 0% state rate for sales and use taxes for food and food ingredients on January 1, 2024, and increasing the extent of property tax exemption for residential property from the statewide school levy.

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB169/id/1313617>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB169/id/1311234>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB169/id/1295841>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB169/id/1260746>)

Pittman voted against legislation that would reduce regulations on business.

HB 2648, 2024: Requiring the director of the budget to independently determine costs of compliance and implementation for all proposed rules and regulations and authorizing the director of the budget to disapprove proposed rules and regulations (82-36)

- REINS Act to rein in the regulatory state
- Provides legislative oversight of high cost regulations
- Pushes back on the bureaucracy

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2648/id/1436116>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2648/id/1416200>)

Pittman voted against legislation that would anti-DEI in Kansas Higher Education.

HB 2105, 2024: DEI in Higher Education (81-40)

- Prohibits higher ed from taking certain actions concerning diversity, equity, or inclusion (DEI)
- Includes prohibiting diversity statements for employment, admission, or education aid.
- Requires all training materials to be posted for the public
- Sets out a process and penalties for non-compliance

Note: He voted against initial report

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2105/id/1421547>)

SB 172, 2024: Foreign Land

- Kansas Land & Military Installation Act
- Prohibit foreign principals from countries of concern from acquiring an interest in non residential real property located within 150 miles of the boundary of any military installation located in Kansas or an adjacent state
- Standing up to China vote

Note: Pittman voted against initial report but voted for it at final passage

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB172/id/1436675>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB172/id/1386270>)

Pittman cast a vote against stopping drone surveillance from hostile nations like China.

SB 271, 2024: Drone Bill

- Prohibits government agencies from purchasing, acquiring, or using drones whose critical components were produced in country of concern, or whose critical components were produced or owned by a foreign principal
- National security vote. Standing up to China

Note: Pittman first voted for it but then voted against Veto Override

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB271/id/1286367>;
<https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB271/id/1436140>)

Pittman voted to make it easier to allow minors to get irreversible sex change surgery.

SB 26, 2023 – Creates civil penalties for doctors who transition minors

- Pro child

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB26/id/1310972>)

SB 233, 2024: Forbidding abusive childhood transitions act

- Conference report prohibiting sex changes for children

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB233/id/1435988>)

Pittman voted against giving parental approval before a healthcare provider administers a drug or test on a minor child

SB 287, 2024: Prohibiting a healthcare provider from administering any drug or diagnostic test or conducting behavioral health treatment to a minor in a school facility without parental consent (85-37)

- Protecting parental rights and requiring their consent before medical treatments or test are performed on their children with exceptions for emergency situations.

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB287/id/1436795>)

Pittman voted against funding efforts to secure the Mexican Border.

SB 28 Line Item 1, 2024: Texas border money

- Veto override regarding sending support to the border to help Texas
- Tough on the border vote

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/SB28/id/1436071>)

Pittman voted against income tax, property tax, food sales tax and social security tax relief.

HB 2284, 2024: Mega Tax Bill

- Single rate income tax 5.25%
 - Eliminate social security tax on income
 - Eliminate food sales tax
 - Increase property tax residential exemption to \$100k
- (Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2284/id/1366412>)

HB 2036, 2024: Mega Tax Bill Veto Override

- Single rate income tax 5.25%
- Eliminate social security tax on income
- Eliminate food sales tax
- Increase property tax residential exemption to \$100k
- Yes vote was a vote to cut all the taxes listed above, no vote was a vote against tax cuts and with Laura Kelly

(Source: <https://legiscan.com/KS/rollcall/HB2036/id/1436058>)

Political Donations/Contributions

Pittman has given to numerous National Democrats and Liberal Causes.

1	committee_name	contributor	contributor	contributor	contributor	contributor	contributor	contributor	contribution	contribution	memo_text
2	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 S BROADWAY ST LEAVENWORTH	STATE OF KANSAS	STATE REPRESENTATIVE			7/31/2017 0:00	100	
3	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 S BROADWAY ST LEAVENWORTH	LOGILITY, BUSINESS CONSULTANT				1/31/2017 0:00	300	
4	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				10/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
5	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				7/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
6	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				12/31/2019 0:00	50	EARMARKED FOR BOLLIER FOR KANSAS (C00723122)
7	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				9/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
8	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				11/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
9	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				8/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
10	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				12/21/2019 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
11	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				1/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
12	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				2/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
13	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				3/7/2020 0:00	100	EARMARKED FOR KALI FOR KANSAS (C00714535)
14	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				3/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
15	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS	C00562983			9/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
16	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				4/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
17	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				5/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
18	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				6/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
19	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				7/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
20	DEMOCRATIC ACTION	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 S BROADWAY ST LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS	C00401224			12/21/2020 0:00	25	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
21	DEMOCRATIC ACTION	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 S BROADWAY ST LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS	C00401224			9/21/2020 0:00	25	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
22	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				9/14/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR 314 ACTION FUND (C00633248)
23	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS	C00562983			10/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
24	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS	C00562983			11/21/2020 0:00	25	EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION (C00562983)
25	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				11/5/2020 0:00	10	EARMARKED FOR 314 ACTION FUND (C00633248)
26	ACTBLUE	JEFFREY	PITTMAN	1108 SOUTH BROADV LEAVENWORTH	AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT				9/1/2020 0:00	100	EARMARKED FOR KALI FOR KANSAS (C00714535)

Category	Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Date	Amount	Recipient	Recipient Jurisdiction
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFF LANSING, KS 66043	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	09-13-2022	\$300	ROGERS, LYNN W (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFF LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	NOT EMPLOYED	07-24-2020	\$5	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, HOLLY & JEFF LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		06-03-2016	\$50	FONKERT, MIKE (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	Candidate	03-02-2016	\$500	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Parties	JEFF PITTMAN CAMPAIGN CMTE LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		11-23-2016	\$1,000	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE REPRESENTATIVE	12-30-2016	\$6,000	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		04-08-2016	\$100	HUTTON, WILLIAM (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE REPRESENTATIVE	10-27-2017	\$100	DEERE, DEBBIE (D)	KS
Money to Parties	JEFF PITTMAN CAMPAIGN CMTE LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		12-17-2018	\$3,100	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		06-24-2016	\$100	DEERE, DEBBIE (D)	KS
Money to Parties	JEFF PITTMAN CAMPAIGN CMTE LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		10-02-2020	\$22,500	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (D)	KS
Money to Parties	JEFF PITTMAN CAMPAIGN CMTE LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		10-20-2020	\$16,250	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		12-28-2020	-\$7,500	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Parties	JEFF PITTMAN CAMPAIGN CMTE LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		09-11-2020	\$15,000	KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY (D)	KS

Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		08-16-2020	\$500	GRISWOLD, MIKE (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	BUSINESS CONSULTANT	05-08-2020	\$25	SCHOLTZ, JOANA (D)	KS
FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS THE USE OF CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS OR FOR ANY COMMERCIAL PURPOSE.							
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	BUSINESS CONSULTANT	09-13-2020	\$250	SCHOLTZ, JOANA (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048		Senator	12-29-2020	\$200	KELLY, (GOVERNOR) LAURA (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	Candidate	11-15-2019	\$7,500	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		12-31-2019	\$7,500	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	Senator	06-30-2023	\$10,000	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) (D)	KS
Money to Parties	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	07-05-2023	\$300	KANSANS FOR A DEMOCRATIC HOUSE (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	Senator	11-23-2021	\$100	KELLY, LAURA J (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		07-21-2022	\$100	CLAYTON, STEPHANIE SAWYER (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	07-24-2022	\$500	HOWARDS, JEFFREY M (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	03-15-2022	\$500	SCHWARZ, HARRY (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		12-31-2021	\$100	MANN, CHRIS (D)	KS

Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	09-27-2022	\$500	MELTON, LYNN (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK	STATE SENATOR	04-21-2022	\$50	ROGERS, LYNN W (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		10-15-2022	\$100	SCHWARZ, HARRY (D)	KS
Money to Candidates	PITTMAN, JEFFREY T (JEFF) LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	BLANK		07-21-2022	\$500	ALLEN, MARTHA (D)	KS

(Source: www.opensecrets.org; Political Contribution search of Jeff Pittman)

Pittman has taken numerous campaign contributions from Trial Lawyers

CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

Candidate: Jeffrey T Pittman

Date	Name and Address of Contributor	Type of Payment Cash, Check, Loan, Other	Occupation And Industry of Individual Giving More Than \$150	Amount
10/24/16	KTLA Consumer/Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren Topeka KS 66603	Check		\$250.00
07/24/18	KTLA Consumer/Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren Topeka KS 66603	Check		\$500.00
09/12/18	Leavenworth KS 66048 KTLA Consumer/Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren Topeka KS 66603	Check		\$500.00
08/25/20	Topeka KS 66612 KTLA Consumer/Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren Topeka KS 66603	Check	PAC	\$1,000.00
11/06/19	ST LOUIS MO 63107 Kansas Trial Lawyers Assoc 719 SW Van Buren Topeka KS 66603	Check		\$1,000.00

08/24/23	KTLA Consumer/Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren UNIT Topeka KS 66603-3740	Check		\$1,000.00
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(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Jeff Pittman Campaign Finance Reports)

Pittman has taken a variety of contributions from the energy/utility industry.

06/08/18	Westar Energy Employees PAC P.O. Box 889 Topeka KS 66601	Check		\$250.00
06/08/18	Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification P.O. Box 790 Meade KS 67864	Check		\$500.00

10/18/18	Kansas New Energy Economy PAC 610 Brazos Street Ste 210 Austin TX 78701	Check		\$500.00
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09/30/18	Eergy Emloye Powerpac-State PO Box 889 Topeka KS 66601	Check		\$400.00
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07/26/23	EVERGY EMPLOYEE POWERPAC - STATE PO Box 889 Topeka KS 66601-0889	Check		\$500.00
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06/20/21	Eergy Employee PowerPAC-State PAC PO Box 889 Topeka KS 66601	Check	PAC	\$500.00
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(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Jeff Pittman Campaign Finance Reports)

Lobbyist Gift Tally

January 2024: \$495.48

February 2024: \$560.33

March 2024: Not Available

April 2024: \$167.46

2023: \$1,273.17

2022: \$2,242.46

2021: \$1,068.23

2020: \$460.84

2019: \$332.48

2018: \$719.40

2017: \$972.94

Current Total from 2017 to 2024: \$8,292.79

(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Lobbyist Gift Expenditures on Jeff Pittman)

KanFocus Democrat Support Ranking

2024: Pittman was 10th most Partisan Senate Democrat voting with them 92.98% of the time.

2023: Pittman was 11th most Partisan Senate Democrat voting with them 89.25% of the time.

2022: Pittman was 10th most Partisan Senate Democrat voting with them 92.98% of the time.

2021: Pittman was the 11th most Partisan Senate Democrat voting with them 92.82% of the time.

2020: Pittman was the 28th most Partisan House Democrat voting with them 94.23% of the time.

2019: Pittman was the 40th most Partisan House Democrat voting with them 85.41% of the time.

2018: Pittman was the 42nd most Partisan House Democrat voting with them 89.21% of the time.

2017: Pittman was the 39th most Partisan House Democrat voting with them 92.02% of the time.

(KanFocus Democrat Support Rankings of Kansas House and Kansas Senate from 2017-2024)

Social Media



Protect Trans Kids @pinintree · Mar 21, 2022

@votepittman I have tried calling you to oppose this bill SB 484. I don't know if you are getting the messages so I am trying you here. Please do the right thing and vote against this bill it is a travesty. #ksleg



Kansas House Democrats @KSHouseDems · Mar 21, 2022

Did you know: SB 484, the anti-transgender youth bill, could require genital inspections?

Passing policy that puts children -- as young as 5 -- in a position for adults around them to be "inspecting" them is disgusting. Tell your ... [Show more](#)

1 retweet heart bar chart bookmark share



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 21, 2022

Thank you. I did receive your message!!

comment retweet heart 1 bar chart bookmark share

Senator Jeff Pittman reposted



Brandon Woodard @Woodard4Kansas · Jun 18, 2021

Look who I found at Pride Night at the @Royals. #ksleg represent!



Holly Pittman and 2 others

1 retweet 6 heart 97 bar chart bookmark share



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Jun 18, 2021



Let's go @Royals! Fun night at the K. #Pride2021





Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 18, 2021

...

Cont exp: be the best they could be... this is unfortunately a punitive bill targeted towards at-risk youth and NOT a real solution that I can support ... I do not feel we should even be discussing this bill as it exists and so I actively choose to pass at this time



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 18, 2021

...

Replying to [@MattCalcara](#) and [@holypittman](#)

My recorded explanation: 208 is an unnecessary bill in search of a problem. Our athletic organizations have appropriate rules in place. If there were a demonstrated problem, we should address it in a way that is constructive and takes appropriate steps that help all youth...



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Mar 18, 2021

...

For the record, he is the third Democrat I have helped register in Leavenworth County this year alone. And he's the 2nd openly-gay one.

I haven't talked to all 3 yet, but the one today has 2 daughters & said you could inspect their genitals over his dead body, so...



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 18, 2021

...

FYI there is no inspection for genitalia as that was amended out. That is an outrageous proposition for sure.





Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 20, 2021



this was a punitive bill targeted towards at-risk youth and something that I cannot support. we should work towards programs that lift all youth. I did not feel we should even be discussing this bill & chose to pass. See p6 for my vote explanation that day bit.ly/3133h7y



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 18, 2021



I don't think we should've even been discussing this bill as there is no issue in my district nor Kansas. This is all political theater and shouldn't even be an issue voted on, esp as presented. A pass is a no vote in case others did not know.



Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Mar 18, 2021



Take it as negative as you want mr Cole. Thats your privilege. We are in a world where trans need to be accepted and also need access to sporting competitions. We can come up with solutions for our youth. We don't have to regress to hate and negativity



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Mar 18, 2021



Holly, this was a very, very bad vote & just hugely disappointing. I supported Jeff b/c I thought he supported LGBTQ+ ppl.

The ironic thing is that literally this morning I've been occupied trying to help a new Leavenworth voter get a birth certificate for ID/voting purposes.





Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Feb 28, 2019

...

Impact of a conviction in one's past extend beyond time served/probation; it can stifle opportunities for work, housing, loans & more. Inability to pay attorneys means that low-income people often carry burden of expungeable conviction for years. Go to LV Library at 6pm for info

**LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY
TODD THOMPSON**



**OFFERS:
EXPUNGEMENT DAY
APPLICATIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY:
MARCH 8, 2019**

The Leavenworth County Attorney's office and local attorneys are offering their help to those eligible to clean their criminal record. An expungement is the removal of an arrest, conviction or diversion from a person's criminal record. Pursuant to K.S.A. 22-6614 et seq, people can have their convictions, arrests, and juvenile adjudications expunged.

Not everyone is qualified for expungements. Certain crimes, whether you were successful on probation or the amount of time since you completed probation are not automatic qualifiers. The Leavenworth County Attorney's office has the right to oppose an expungement.

To fill out forms for expungements go to www.leavenworthcountyattorney.org. A filing fee will be necessary. If you feel you can't afford that for you can consult with one of the attorneys.

When forms are completed, turn them into the Leavenworth County Attorney's office. If you qualify for an expungement one of the attorneys listed will reach out to you.

ALONG WITH:

HATEM CHAHINE
400 Massachusetts Street Suite 300
Leavenworth, KS 66044
Ph: (785) 884-4421

JOHN BRYANT
429 Delaware Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Ph: (785) 884-4418

CHRISTOPHER ACUFF
7946 W. 12th Street Suite 200
Overland Park, KS 66209
Ph: (913) 706-2047

ELAINE BAILEY
Ph: (800) 831-0339

EMILY LAW OPPERK
313 E. 49 Street
Topeka, KS 66606
Ph: (316) 842-8786

REN CASAD
2000 S. 21st Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Ph: (785) 884-4406

PATRICK CAHILL
Ph: (800) 704-5144

**WEB CLARIFIED
PARRINGTON & JORDAN PERBLE**
202 South 2nd Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Ph: (785) 884-2864

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY
TODD THOMPSON'S
OFFICE
at: www.leavenworthcountyattorney.org**

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ThatGirl @JackieFayeBaker · Jun 13, 2018

...

@votepittman I'd like to talk with you about your thoughts about a Leavenworth Kansas cop making slanderous comments and muting their body cam.

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Senator Jeff Pittman @votepittman · Jun 13, 2018

...

Let's set up a time to talk jeff@votepittman.com

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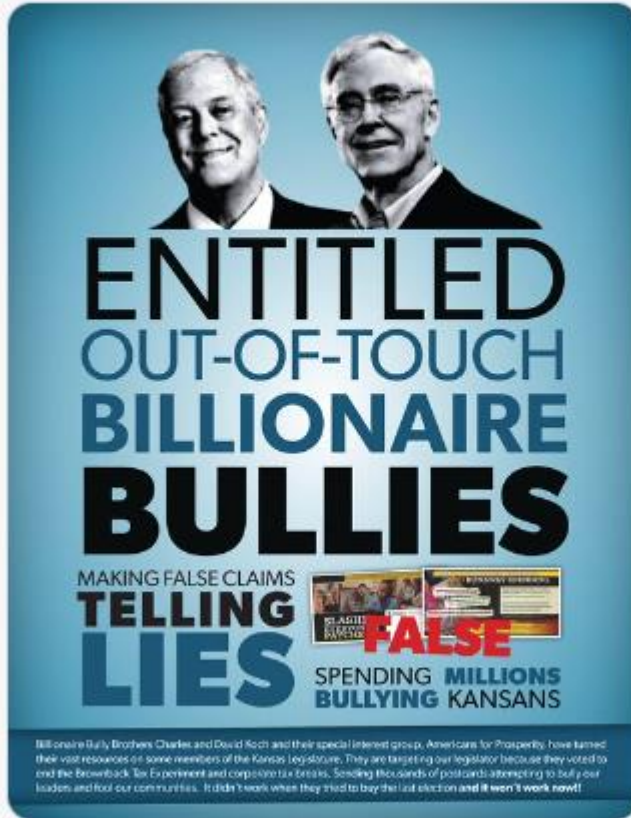
Senator Jeff Pittman reposted



Save Kansas @savekansas · Nov 9, 2017

...

AFP is spending Millions, Bullying Kansans. Sending thousands of postcards attempting to fool our communities! #kochbullies #ksleg



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