

I wish to thank my constituent, Art Loub, for pointing out to me errors in my survey report to you. I appreciate his attention to this detail! The error is/was that the tabulation report on questions 1 and questions 2 were somehow reversed in my report to you. Thus, it appeared that I had flatly ignored your comments and recommendations on the gaming issue!

SURVEY RESULTS CORRECTED

I promised to send out my survey responses to you. Let me say that I still received about a dozen in the mail this week. I sent them to those of you who voted in the last election, via email news and via regular mail. Out of the 5547 that voted, 193 have moved out of my district and were not surveyed. Thus, 5354 voters had the opportunity to participate in my advisory survey. I am pleased to say that I received 580 responses, making my response rate about 10.8%. I realize that the questions were a bit vague, but I was looking for attitudes and reactions to ideas. There simply is not enough time to get the actual questions to you that require my vote since changes and amendments can occur up to the day before we vote. I was quite pleased that nearly everyone identified themselves on the survey sheet and many made personal comments. The results:

I want to know... What matters to you

1) Many small businesses struggle to provide health care benefits to employees. Should small businesses be able to participate in the state health plan, if doing so meant no cost to the state?

Yes 352 No 28 Unsure 68 (I voted yes on SB 11 – as amended)

2) Would you support expanded gaming in Kansas if it provided additional state revenue and helped meet budget demands?

Yes 241 No 309 Unsure 30 (I voted No)

3) Should a law be created to ban protesters from demonstrating outside of funerals for fallen military personnel?

Yes 380 No 48 Unsure 23 (I voted yes)

4) Kansas currently has the lowest minimum wage in the United States at \$2.65 an hour. Should the Kansas minimum wage be increased to meet those of other states?

Yes 447 No 64 Unsure 52 (I voted yes to amend into another bill)

5) Many people feel that stem cell research may hold the key to curing countless diseases. Do you believe stem cell research should be permitted if it excludes human cloning?

Yes 437 No 62 Unsure 58 (No opportunity to vote on this to date)

6) Should laws require more disclosure from organizations that are spending money to influence elections?

Yes 487 No 14 Unsure 43 (I voted yes for restricting robo calling)

(1)SB11 was totally rewritten by the House of Representatives with a floor amendment yesterday. The amendment was a result of collaborative efforts between Governor Kathleen Sebelius, House and Senate members, and the Kansas Health Policy Authority. House members voted 117 to 5 on April 2, to approve several new health reform initiatives that establish a framework that will help provide affordable health coverage to all Kansans. It also includes a provision which I offered last year in my False Claims Against the State Bill that was not in the final form of the bill. It adds a position of an Inspector General to investigate fraud, waste and abuse of Medicaid and Medicare.**

This has been an important issue to the public and House Democrats for a number of years. I am excited to see this bi-partisan cooperation of House Democrats and Republicans to make health care reform a priority.

As amended, Senate Bill 11 includes a number of proposals that House Democrats have been promoting already this session, including help for small businesses buying into association health plans, private-sector

insurance for people at least 50 percent below the poverty line, and the creation of a long-term health care strategy.

(2)The gambling bill passed Wednesday night. I voted No. (3) The Funeral Picketing bill passed. **(4) An Amendment on HB 2316 that would have increased the Minimum Wage, was killed 2/21/07 in the House by a vote of 56-63. (5) Stem Cell research has not been presented to the body. **(6) Campaign Finance Reform attempts have mostly failed. However, some restrictions on robo calling are now in conference committee and may yet be effected.

** Revisions to previous newsletter

KEEP IN TOUCH

It is a special honor and privilege to serve as your voice in the Kansas House of Representatives. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is Room 521-S, Statehouse, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7651 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at carlin@house.state.ks.us or visit my website www.sydneycarlin.com . You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org.

Sydney