

Insurance commissioner warns consumers about proposed legislation

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger recently warned Kansas seniors that legislation being considered by state lawmakers would place federal funding for all health care services and health plans under the control of the state legislature and governor.

The House Federal and State Affairs Committee has approved House Bill 2553, and it is currently before the full House of Representatives.

"This legislation would include but is not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, the children's health insurance program (HealthWave), rural hospitals, Hospice and federally qualified health centers (FQHC)," Commissioner Praeger said. "The funding would be received in a block grant to the state, and the state legislature would decide how to spend those health care dollars."

Commissioner Praeger said that, under the legislation, if the state budget is under-funded in the future, money that should be used to support the Medicare

program for seniors in Kansas could be swept from that program to support other state responsibilities.

"It is already happening with dollars meant for highway programs and funds in other state agencies being taken and used to offset spending for other legislative priorities," Commissioner Praeger said, "caused in part by the reduction in state income taxes."

"Supporters of the bill may tell you it doesn't affect Medicare, but that is just not true. It could jeopardize the coverage and benefits that seniors have come to count on. It would be a serious mistake to turn the Medicare program over to state control. Kansans have paid into this program through payroll taxes and expect to receive the benefits they have been promised."

Gene Meyer, CEO of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, commented, "This proposal is extremely significant to our fragile health care system in Kansas and would have the potential to

seriously damage hospitals and physicians in our ability to continue to deliver quality care to those we serve."

AARP has also voiced opposition to the compact legislation.

Governors in Arizona, New Mexico and Montana have already vetoed similar compact legislation in their states, stating among other concerns the fact that Medicare programs in their respective states could be in jeopardy, the Commissioner said.

"In Kansas there are 448,000 Medicare beneficiaries who rely on this important program to fund their health care services," Commissioner Praeger said. "I encourage them to call their legislators and let them know that they need to leave the funding for Medicare alone. This compact is ill-conceived and has many consequences that can be damaging to our health care delivery system and the citizens of Kansas and their health care services."

Final meeting held...



USD 211 held their final bond issue meeting on Sunday. The reason for so many meetings was to be sure that everyone's questions had been answered so each voter could make an educated vote at the polls today. By passing the bond issue for the school, the county is looking at an increased mill levy to last twenty years.
- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

LYLE NEWS

By Veda Wood

The American Legion Lebanon and Danbury post sponsored two boys who will be going to Boys State at a soup supper on March 9 at Lebanon, Nebraska. Toots Magers and Veda Wood were privileged to ride with Gary and Cathy Anthony. We enjoyed soup, cinnamon rolls, cake and veggies very much, and it was wonderful seeing many old friends.

We are thankful to report that Dwight Wood is at home now, and that his wife, Teresa is doing his dialysis again.

Telia High and her family,

Mariah, Garrett, and Aubrey were home on a short weekend visit with Carol and John Moye, of Oberlin, and myself in Norcatuar.

Tim, Jolene and Clinton Nejdil visited Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen on Sunday. They still have mud left from the recent snow. We will take all the moisture we can get.

June Jolly went to Hayes Center, Ne. to a basketball game in which her great grandson, Austin Blume played. His team went to State in Lincoln on Thursday.

After the game, Jennifer took pictures of him and five grand-

mas. June hosted her KT Club on Thursday, played her usual card games and went to Norton for Bingo Sunday evening.

There will be a benefit for Doug Gallentine at the American Legion in Norton this Saturday, March 15. He has been hospitalized with cancer.

The Lyle Church service will be at 11 a.m. next Sunday as Jim and Carolyn Plotts will be making another trip to Mexico and Dewayne Jackson will be our minister.

Author

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vites them to put their scars on the dolls. "I want them to like themselves just the way they are," he says.

Now, Ward has published a coloring book in which the children can color their scars.

He has dedicated the coloring book to his mom and dad. On each page is the name of someone who has inspired him or played a key role in his acceptance of himself and love of his own scars.

Some of the wording in the coloring book is as follows:

"Scarman's message is for friends near and far. To accept ourselves just the way that we are. Some can run and some can wheel, some need to be carried but we're all still real. Trying to fit in and be something we're not, only stops us from seeing the blessings we've got.

"Color me Scarman and just do your best. Put your awesome imagination to the test. The scars you have will always be, so accept them with pride as you share your story. Share it with all as you learn and grow. Color

each picture as you dream it so. Come along now with Scarman and take his hand as you travel together through a colorful land.

"Scarman was created from some of my scars but he represents all of us. We all have scars. Some we can see and some we can't. Every scar on Scarman is real and each scar has a story behind it. Your story of scars is unique and only yours. Be proud and create your own Scarman in every picture. We can grow from our scars, from our struggles and from our failures. Color your scars the way you see them. Celebrate the wonderful you for coming so far and by being perfect just the way you are."

"We are not given a good life or a bad life," says Ward. "We are given life. And it's up to us to make it good or bad.

"One of my greatest accomplishments was the acceptance of myself.

"Since the creation of Scarman, we have made dolls, shirts and hats in hope of reaching children in different ways. Each doll is hand made by several volunteers. We are able to give

children around the world blank dolls for them to create their own Scarman."

He says he has even given dolls to some adults with life problems.

The coloring books retail for \$5 each and are for sale at Jamboree Foods in Norton and the Norton Telegram or can be purchased from wardfoley.com.

Ward's brain was not affected by his condition and he has become an accomplished and much-sought-after speaker to youths in school assemblies, adults in treatment centers, medical professionals and people in all types of businesses from California to Virginia and North Dakota to Texas.

As an example, he was speaking in an elementary school in Salt Lake City several days ago and in the near future he will be speaking again in Virginia.

He has, without a shadow of a doubt, dedicated his life to helping others see that if they have been dealt a bad card in life they can still be successful by working positively with what they do have.

Business

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come. They have regular huddle meetings every Friday morning and will make the Workwell program part of the weekly agenda and instead of sitting during this meeting all have agreed to

stand since, due to the nature of their jobs, they sit most of the time. Another plan they wish to include would be at the weekly ladies lunch they would spend some of it exchanging healthy recipes. Not only do they want to encourage each other to lead

a healthier lifestyle but on their Facebook page they encourage others to do the same.

This is just another great thing about living in this community, people helping people, encouraging and supporting a better way of life.



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