

State of Kansas



Speaker Melvin Neufeld
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SPEAKER MAKES APPOINTMENT TO PHYSICIAN TASK FORCE

Rep. Brenda Landwehr also to chair Group

Topeka – Kansas Speaker of the House of Representatives Melvin Neufeld (R-Ingalls) announced today he has appointed Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) to the **Physician Workforce and Accreditation Task Force**. He also asked Rep. Landwehr to chair the task force.

Rep. Landwehr serves the 91st House District. In addition to chairing the House Health and Human Services Committee, she also sits on the House Commerce and Labor Committee and the House Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee as well as the Joint Committee Home and Community Based Services and the Kansas Health Policy Oversight Committee.

The 2008 Legislature established the 13-member Task Force with the passage of House Sub. for Senate Bill 81. Members will study and adopt recommendations regarding the physician workforce in the state and accreditation issues at the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education program (WCGME).

Speaker Neufeld said he is very pleased Chairwoman Landwehr agreed to serve on and lead this important task force.

“WCGME is crucial to training doctors who eventually practice in rural areas of the state. And with both a record number of physicians reaching retirement age and our population getting older, our need for new doctors will become critical,” Speaker Neufeld said. “As Chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, Chairwoman Landwehr has in-depth knowledge of the accreditation challenges faced by WCGME. She will work hard on behalf of the House and the State of Kansas to find a solution and make it the number one family practice training program in the country.”

Chairwoman Landwehr said she looks forward to continuing to work with the Speaker to improve and protect the state’s health care system.

“Under the Speaker’s leadership, the Kansas House is working to reform our state’s health care system so all Kansans have access to affordable, quality treatment,” Chairwoman Landwehr said. “Making sure we have well-trained doctors is a crucial part of that reform. We must make sure WCGME meets the new accreditation requirements because if the school loses it, it will be very difficult to get the program back.”

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has implemented new accreditation standards that require WCGME to have scholarly and clinical research. These new requirements mean WCGME must now pay faculty members who volunteer to teach residents in these areas.