
Governor Laura Kelly's 2025 State of the State Address:

On January 15, 2025, Governor Laura Kelly delivered her State of the State address, outlining a vision for Kansas that focuses on long-term sustainability and prosperity. Key areas of emphasis included water conservation, education, childcare, and nutrition—topics that resonate deeply with our Tribe's priorities.

Water Conservation

Governor Kelly highlighted the critical importance of securing Kansas's water supply for future generations. She advocated for comprehensive strategies to protect this vital resource, recognizing that water is essential not only for agriculture and industry but also for the health and well-being of all communities. For our Tribe, access to clean and reliable water sources is fundamental. We anticipate that the state's renewed focus on water conservation will lead to initiatives that support our efforts to manage and protect our water resources effectively.

Education

The Governor reaffirmed her commitment to fully funding public education across Kansas. She emphasized the need to prepare students for the challenges of the future by investing in quality education today. This dedication to education aligns with our Tribe's goal of providing our children with the best possible opportunities to learn and grow. We look forward to potential collaborations with the state to enhance educational programs that reflect our cultural values and meet the needs of our students.

Child Care

Addressing the challenges faced by working families, Governor Kelly proposed the creation of an Office of Early Childhood. This initiative aims to streamline services and support for childcare providers and parents, making it easier to access quality early childhood education and care. For our Tribe, accessible and affordable childcare is crucial for the well-being of our families and the development of our youngest members. We are optimistic that this proposal will lead to resources and support that benefit our community directly.

Nutrition: Free School Lunches

In a significant move to support child nutrition, Governor Kelly proposed allocating \$5.5 million to provide free school lunches to over 35,000 Kansas students who currently qualify for reduced-price meals. This initiative aims to ensure that more children have access to nutritious meals during the school day, which is essential for their health and academic success. Many of these students reside in rural areas, and this program could have a substantial impact on families within our Tribe. By alleviating the financial burden of school meals, the proposal supports our community's efforts to promote the well-being and educational attainment of our children.

Looking Ahead

Governor Kelly's address underscores a commitment to building a sustainable and prosperous future for all Kansans. The initiatives outlined have the potential to significantly impact our Tribe, particularly in areas that are vital to our community's health, education, and cultural preservation. We are eager to engage with state leaders to ensure that these plans are implemented in ways that honor our heritage and support our continued growth.

As these proposals develop, we will keep our community informed and involved. Together, we can work towards a future that reflects our shared values and aspirations.

For a complete transcript of Governor Kelly's 2025 State of the State address, please visit the Kansas Reflector's website.

kansasreflector.com

To watch the full address, you can view it on YouTube.

youtube.com