

THE WHITE PAGES

CAPITOL REPORT

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Prescription Drug Transparency Interim Committee Update

This month, the Prescription Drug Transparency Interim Committee met in Kansas City where we listened to testimony from key stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry. During this hearing, we heard from pharmacists and representatives from the insurance coalition.

One of the presenters was Tim Mitchell, a pharmacist from Neosho, who provided testimony about the issues he has encountered with the price model used by Prescription Benefit Manager companies (PBM). During his testimony, he discussed the payback system between PBM's and the pharmaceutical manufacturers, and outlined some of the PBM's questionable marketing tactics he has noticed over time. When the insurance coalition testified, they did not address the PBM issues directly raised by pharmacists, but asserted they were necessary, and cost efficient for the insurance companies.

I am gravely concerned that prescription drug pricing is being significantly inflated by the current health care pricing model used by insurance companies and PBM's. Earlier this year, Cigna acquired Express Scripts, which is a PBM, for \$54 billion. CVS, another PBM and pharmacy company, bought Aetna, an insurance company, for \$69 billion. In my opinion, this indicates that the large amount of profits associated with these companies may potentially lead to a significant inflation in drug pricing.

The committee will hold one more hearing before the legislative session begins, and I am confident the committee will gather enough research to allow us to make substantive legislative recommendations in order to force a reduction in prescription drug prices for consumers.

Happy Thanksgiving to All

In my last report, I provided an update on resources available for those who may need help paying their utility bills. As the holiday season gets closer, I believe this time of year allows us to be thankful for all that we have, and to share what we can with those who may need a helping hand.

With Thanksgiving only days away, many families across our great state are preparing their homes to celebrate and spend time with the people we love and cherish the most.

Thanksgiving is a time to express how thankful we are for those who have made an impression on our lives, and continue to pass down traditions to our children and grandchildren.

In my house every year, I look forward to hearing about the things that our children and grandchildren are most thankful for, and laughing about all of the good times we have had this year as a family.

In addition to being thankful for my family, I am most thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve as the senator of the 32nd Senatorial District.

I look forward to continuing to be an advocate for the issues that are most important to you during the 2020 legislative session. If you know someone who is not subscribed to our newsletter, I encourage you to share my email with them for future updates.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!

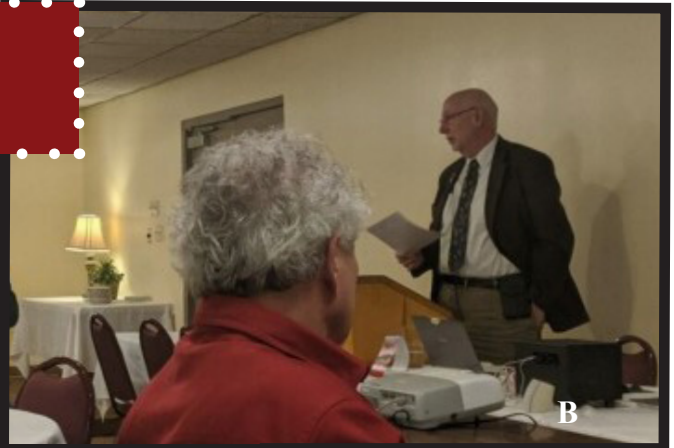
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CONSTITUENTS IN THE 32ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



A



B



C



D



E

A. Congratulations to Reiboldt Farms in Neosho. B. On Nov. 7, Sen. Bill White provided a legislative update at a Joplin Area Conservative Meeting. C. Mike Kelley, Chief of Staff for Sen. Bill White presented a Missouri Senate Resolution of behalf of the senator to Clifford Smith, a Purple Heart Marine who served in the Korean War. D. Senator Bill White visited Cecil Floyd Elementary School. E. Senator Bill White passes out candy during the 32nd Annual Joplin Community Veterans Day Parade.

SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Here are photos from the recent Celebration of Schools program hosted by the Southwest Center for Educational Excellence recognizing innovative educators, school board members and school districts. If you are friends with any of the educators in these photos feel free to share them.

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*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY