



# THE WEEKLY REVIEW



*"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."*

- Pope Francis

**IN THIS ISSUE:**



*This weekly news aggregate is created by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for SCL Sisters & Associates along with any other interested audiences.  
Questions/Comments/Concerns?  
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# KS Legislative Session 2024



## (Opinion) Working parents still can't find affordable health insurance coverage in Kansas

*(KS Reflector, 1/25/2024)*

"Right now, the parents of kids in a family of four would qualify for Medicaid only if their income was below 38% of the federal poverty level, which is just \$11,400 per year for a family of four. If their income is above \$11,400 but below \$30,000, they have no access to health insurance that would have no or little premium amount to pay. Instead, the adults in this family sit in the coverage gap.

Expanding Medicaid would resolve this coverage gap. And not only would expanding Medicaid get parents like these on the path to better health, but it would also help many Kansas kids get covered themselves.

Thousands of Kansas children remain uninsured. It's currently about 1 in 20 Kansas kids."

## Bill restricting DEI returns to Kansas Legislature amid debate over ideology, pronouns

*(KS Reflector, 1/31/2023)*

"Diversity, equity and inclusion is commonly understood as an organizational framework that seeks to give voices to historically underrepresented groups. The diversity aspect is meant to acknowledge differences such as race, gender, sexual identity and culture. Equity is about correcting systemic imbalance and offering everyone equal opportunities. Inclusion is about supporting and valuing all people and making sure they feel valued within a system, as InclusionHub defines it.

Republicans on a national and local level had sounded the alarm about DEI. In Kansas, legislative Republicans tried to ban state universities from asking faculty members, students and contractors about diversity, equity and inclusion during the last legislative session."

# Care of Creation

## Move to sustainable food systems could bring \$10tn benefits a year, study finds

*(The Guardian, 1/29/2024)*

"Food systems drive a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, putting the world on course for 2.7C of warming by the end of the century. This creates a vicious cycle, as higher temperatures bring more extreme weather and greater damage to harvests.

Food insecurity also puts a burden on medical systems. The study predicted a business-as-usual approach would leave 640 million people underweight by 2050, while obesity would increase by 70%."



## Biden's next top climate aide 'a serious Catholic' committed to 'Laudato Si'

*(Earthbeat, 2/2/2024)*

"Podesta's new role positions him as a central player in the annual United Nations climate summits. It's a place he's been before. While a counselor on energy and climate to former President Barack Obama, he was credited as a key contributor in developing the 2015 Paris Agreement, especially in helping forge an agreement with China in the lead-up."

## Kansas bill ending municipal regulation of plastic bags, containers raises constitutional issue

*(KS Reflector, 1/31/2024)*

"In simple terms, the bill aggressively promoted by the Kansas Chamber would forbid municipal bans on plastic straws and the thin, cheap plastic shopping bags often given consumers by retail stores and carryout restaurants. The prohibition would broadly define auxiliary containers as cups, packages and bottles made of cloth, paper, plastic, foamed plastic, cardboard, aluminum, glass or a recycled material."

# Events

- Feb, 13, 6:00 - 7:00 pm (CST)- Georgetown U- Faith and the Faithful in the 2024 Election: A Look Back, a Look Around, a Look Forward to November
- Feb. 14, 11:00 am in Topeka, KS- Alliance for a Healthy KS: Love Thy Neighbor Day at the KS Statehouse



# Human Trafficking

## Business Best Practices to Stop Human Trafficking

*(US Chamber of Commerce, 1/30/2024)*

"The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, regions, and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), a nonprofit organization that educates, equips, empowers, and mobilizes members of the trucking, bus, and energy industries to combat human trafficking, produced this toolkit to highlight best practices and share resources to engage the business community in helping end this crime."

## WATCH: U.S. attorney discusses realities of human trafficking

*(KLTN News, 1/30/2024)*

"U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs joined East Texas Now host Devyn Shea to talk about the realities of human trafficking as Human Trafficking Awareness Month comes to a close.

They discussed who actually does the trafficking, the volume of victims who are trafficked and what the actual signs are of trafficking."



**Latino rights group says Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's immigration rhetoric could spark violence**

*(Spectrum News 1, 1/30/2024)*

- "The League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, the country's oldest Latino civil rights group, on Monday issued what it calls a National Alert
- The group said that Gov. Greg Abbott's tough immigration rhetoric may encourage white extremists "with a hate agenda" to travel to Texas
- Abbott has repeatedly stated that he's taking steps to secure the Texas-Mexico border because the Biden administration has failed to do so
- Abbott has also said that migrants seeking asylum may do so at any of the state's legal ports of entry"

**'Take Our Border Back' vehicle convoy to rally near US-Mexico border**

*(Reuters, 2/2/2024)*

"The convoy hopes to bring more attention to border security as the number of migrants caught illegally crossing into the U.S. has reached record highs under President Joe Biden, a Democrat seeking reelection in November. Republicans, including former President Donald Trump, the party's leading presidential candidate, have called for more restrictive policies and sought to motivate their base voters with the issue."

**US Compliance with the Global Compact on Migration: A Mixed Record**

*(Center for Migration Studies, 2/2/2024)*

"Since that time, the US has achieved a mixed record of adhering to the provisions of the GCM, a document which creates a multilateral framework for the international community to humanely manage migration flows. Moreover, proposed changes to US border policy threaten to further sully the US record on migration. The following is an examination of US immigration policies and how they measure up to the provisions of the GCM."

# Seeking Racial Justice

## What is Christian nationalism and why it raises concerns about threats to democracy

*(PBS News, 2/1/2024)*

"I think white evangelicals are the group we think of when we think of white Christian nationalism, and for good reason.

These are folks who, when we think about the Iowa caucuses, in 2016 Trump's white evangelical voters were about 20 percent of his share of voters in that cycle. Just a few weeks ago, in 2024, that grew to well over 50 percent.

White evangelicals remain committed to the MAGA movement, and one of the key indicators of why is Christian nationalism."



## Black History Month 2024 has begun. Here's this year's theme and other things to know

*(NPR, 2/1/2024)*

- "It was Negro History Week before it was Black History Month
- There's a new theme chosen each year for the celebration
  - This year, the theme is "African Americans and the Arts."
- Recent controversies over how race is taught echo a time when Black history was often ignored"

## How a Black Miami neighborhood became 'ground zero for climate gentrification'

*(The Guardian, 1/29/2024)*

"The relentless displacement of low-income communities of color is a familiar saga in cities across the United States. But the climate crisis has accelerated the process in pancake-flat Miami, where scientists estimate that by 2040, sea levels will rise by 10 to 17in above 2000 levels.

Property values in some seaside suburbs have indeed been stagnating of late. The online real estate platform Zillow estimated the average home value in Miami Beach at \$527,807 as of December 2023, a 0.4% increase over the previous year. In Liberty City, where the average home is valued at \$380,255, Zillow registered a 12.2% rise."

# Advocacy & Action



## Alliance for a Healthy Kansas: **Demand a Hearing on Medicaid Expansion!**

“More than 7 in 10 Kansans support expanding Medicaid to reduce healthcare costs for everybody. But leaders in the Kansas Legislature have blocked debate on Expansion year after year.

There hasn't even been a public hearing on Expansion in the Kansas House since 2017 or in the Kansas Senate since 2020.

We are urging lawmakers to hold a hearing before Kansas Day, on January 29th. If you're as determined as we are to see the Legislature take action this year, demanding a hearing is the next step.

Use this form to send a message to your Representative and Senator, to Legislative leadership, and to the committee members who could make this happen!”