



# THE WEEKLY REVIEW



## IN THIS ISSUE:

**EVENTS / ACTIVITIES**

**CURRENT EVENTS**

**ACTION & ADVOCACY**

*“Let us remember Paul VI’s words: ‘For the Catholic Church, no one is a stranger, no one is excluded, no one is far.’ Indeed, we are a single human family that is journeying on toward unity, making the most of solidarity and dialogue among peoples in the multiplicity of differences.”*

— Pope Francis

*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?  
Email: JPIC@scls.org*



# KS Legislative Session 2024



## Kansas Rural Center Legislative Policy Watch: Issue No. 14, April 5, 2024

"Legislative Policy Watch is a weekly online publication of the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) during the State of Kansas legislative session. KRC is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the long term health of the land and its people, through education, research and advocacy that advance an ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just agriculture."

### Kansas Medicaid expansion debate to be revived when Legislature returns

*(KS Reflector, 4/9/2024)*

"Lawmakers rushed to hammer out myriad policy pieces ranging from the tax code to K-12 education funding during a late-night marathon session before adjourning Saturday for three weeks. During the frenzied process, Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes, a Lenexa Democrat, introduced a motion to pull Senate Bill 355 to the floor for consideration.

The procedural move is designed to override the authority of Republican leadership who refuse to allow the bill to move forward through the usual process. The Sykes motion will require approval from 24 of the 40 senators."

### Kansas Appleseed Legislative Updates: April 8, 2024

"The Legislature adjourned for their First Adjournment early Saturday morning, and a late night in the Statehouse means there is a lot of legislative activity to unpack in this week's email. The legislature will be on break for much of the month, returning on April 29 for their veto session."

# Care of Creation

## For communities near chemical plants, EPA's new air pollution rule spells relief

(NPR, 4/9/2024)

"Ethylene oxide and chloroprene are the two main pollutants targeted by the rule. They're mostly produced by chemical plants disproportionately located near minority communities in Texas and Louisiana. Even in small amounts, exposure to both chemicals can damage human DNA and cause mutations that can lead to illnesses later in life. Children are especially susceptible.

The EPA will require industries to find the source of pollution for these chemicals and make repairs if annual air concentrations of pollutants exceed standards. The plants will also be required to add fence-line monitoring near communities and share the data publicly."



## US to end 'gun show loophole' that allows sales without background checks

(BBC News, 4/11/2024)

"In a video on Thursday, President Joe Biden called on Congress to "finish the job and pass universal background check legislation now".

The closure of the "gun show loophole" will go into effect 30 days after it is published in the federal registry this week.

The White House has cited the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, which solidified who and what is considered a firearm dealer, to expand the background check requirements."

## New York Catholic Workers bring new growth with rooftop garden

(Earthbeat, 4/10/2024)

"Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Worker in New York in 1933 with friend, social activist and French theologian Maurin. What began as an effort to publish a social justice-oriented newspaper became better known for its "houses of hospitality," where unpaid volunteers prepare meals, give away clothes and provide shelter to people in need. Since 1975, when Day purchased the Maryhouse on Third Street, the building has served vulnerable women in New York City and housed dozens of Catholic Worker volunteers."

# Events

- [Beginning April 9- NETWORK: 2024 Election Training Series for faith-filled voters](#)
- [Apr. 13 - Aug. 10- Center for Benedictine Life- Diffusions - Monastic Land Stewardship Series: Caring for the Earth in Troubled Times](#)
- [Apr. 18 & 19- Center for the Study of Consecrated Life \(CSCL\) Spring 2024 Symposium: "Moving Along the Arc: Women and Men Religious as Agents of Reconciliation and Transformative Action Towards a More Racially Just Church and World"](#)
- [Apr. 23, 1:00 pm \(CST\)- CWR Academy: How Narrative Drives Change](#)

# Human Trafficking

## Stop Trafficking Newsletter

### April Issue: The LGBTQ+ Community

*(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 04/2024)*

"Focus: This month's newsletters explores human trafficking among the LGBTQ+ community."

### Nigerian sister honored for work against human trafficking

*(National Catholic Reporter, 4/10/2024)*

"Through the projects, she has ramped up focus and activism on the prevention of human trafficking through public sensitization, protection and care of victims through rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking, especially women and children, and prosecution of perpetrators of the vice and traffickers, through collaboration with government agencies and stakeholders.

Okwu, a member of Talitha Kum, particularly fights for returnees who are rescued by humanitarian organizations or forced back to Nigeria by the countries they were smuggled to. These victims are often traumatized, stigmatized by their communities, and lack jobs and access to medical care."





**Mexico City is 'waiting room' for migrants as they sort out legal situation at border**

*(Detroit Catholic, 4/11/2024)*

"But an increasing number of migrants are now staying put for long periods in Mexico City as they attempt to get their legal situations sorted out prior to risking crossing the U.S.-Mexico border -- where drug cartels target them for kidnapping. Mexico City in recent years has been seen as a safe option in a country where swaths of territory are disputed by drug cartels. Catholics working with migrants say the capital affords people without the proper papers the ability to avoid scrutiny from migration officials and often find work in the vast informal economy to sustain themselves while waiting."

**Denver Asylum Seeker program to provide pathway to stability, job opportunities for migrant families**

*(CBS News, 4/11/2024)*

"As one of the nearly 1,000 migrants who will benefit from the launch of the program, people like Pastor and her family would receive rental assistance and food for six months. At the same time, they will receive help on their application for asylum, with the end goal of becoming eligible for work authorization after those six months."

**A tale of 2 realities: Immigration, advocacy and faith in America**

*(Global Sisters Report, 4/11/2024)*

"As I grappled with the harsh realities of life on the margins, I was forced to confront the contradictions inherent in America's immigration system. On the one hand, I was welcomed with open arms as a student and was encouraged to pursue my dreams and ambitions. Yet, as soon as I graduated, I found myself cast adrift in a sea of uncertainty, relegated to the shadows of society by virtue of my race and legal status. It was a pill too bitter to swallow, which again is a stark reminder of the arbitrary nature of borders and the power dynamics that shape our world."

# Seeking Racial Justice

## White-sounding names get called back for jobs more than Black ones, a new study finds

*(NPR, 4/11/2024)*

“Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Chicago recently took that premise and expanded on it, filing 83,000 fake job applications for 11,000 entry-level positions at a variety of Fortune 500 companies.

Their working paper, published this month and titled “A Discrimination Report Card,” found that the typical employer called back the presumably white applicants around 9% more than Black ones. That number rose to roughly 24% for the worst offenders.”



## Through gardens, these Native communities are cultivating a solution to climate change

*(PBS News, 4/10/2024)*

“It’s a small garden, but Brandon believes it could represent a unique intersection of his identity, sustainable and healthy living and an appreciation for nature.

“This is my passion and what I want to do,” Brandon said. “I want to help people through protecting and educating them about the environment. I think you gain a deeper understanding of the value of our land when you help cultivate it.””

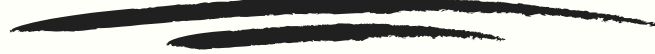
## Wichita pays \$625K to settle lawsuit over police use of discriminatory ‘gang list’

*(KS Reflector, 4/9/2024)*

“Black residents account for more than 50% of the individuals on the gang list but only 7.5% of Wichita’s population, according to the ACLU’s analysis of 2022 data. Latino residents make up almost 30% of those on the list but only 14.1% of the city’s population. White residents, 68% of Wichita’s population, account for only 6% of those on the gang list.

People were placed on the list without notice or opportunity to challenge the designation. Then, they faced increased police scrutiny and harassment, harm to reputation, loss of housing and employment opportunities, and other damage. Those who were convicted of a crime faced higher bond amounts, more severe probation and parole conditions, and longer sentences.”

# Advocacy & Action



Alliance for a Healthy Kansas:

## **Demand a full and fair debate on Medicaid expansion**

“Leaders in the Kansas Legislature held hearings on Medicaid expansion this year because you raised your voices and demanded it.

They are now using their power to block debate and we need you to raise your voice again. House and Senate leaders won't bring Medicaid expansion to the full legislature for consideration through the normal democratic process - but supportive Senators will have a chance to change that in April.

When lawmakers return to Topeka in late April there will be a vote in the Senate to bring the issue out of committee so that the full Senate can debate expansion and we need your Senator to be ready for the moment.

Use this form to send messages to your State Senator to urge them to bring Expansion up for debate!”