



K A N S A S

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

Key Proposals in the Governor's 2008 State of the State Address

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Innovation Economy: *"The innovation economy is not waiting somewhere out on the horizon; the innovation economy is here – now – today."*

The spread of technology and the rise of highly skilled workers in countries around the world have created a global economy. To create a competitive labor force, the innovation economy demands alignment of postsecondary education with the needs of growing Kansas industries.

Education: *"We can't afford for any of our young Kansans to be so far behind that they never catch up by the time they enter kindergarten."*

At no time in our history has a quality education been more essential to a prosperous future. We have committed over \$1 billion in new money for K-12 education. To expand early learning opportunities for Kansas children, the governor proposes \$27 million for all-day kindergarten and \$23 million in block grant funding for early childhood education. Just as important as early education is higher education. An additional \$3 million in scholarship money will ensure that 2,000 more students will have the opportunity to compete in our new innovation economy.

Health Care: *"A growing burden for business leaders, for workers, for families, and for seniors is the continued rising costs of health care."*

Governor Sebelius strongly encourages the passage of the Kansas Health Policy Authority's health reform package, in its entirety, this session. The plan was developed under the direction of the legislature and has the ability to transform the ailing health care system in Kansas.

Centers for Rural Opportunity: *"Our economic strategy must focus on the prospects and promise of rural Kansas."*

In order to attract investment, business development, and job growth in the state's rural communities, the governor proposes \$2.1 million to support three Offices of Rural Opportunities. The centers will ensure communities have access to state and federal services and assistance.

Energy: *"By capitalizing on our state's assets, we will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, boost our rural economy, and protect the environment for our children's future"*

Kansas can lead America to energy security by tapping our fertile resources, our workers, and the ingenuity of Kansas entrepreneurs. We can and must reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions and increase our economic competitiveness by using our natural resources.