



Winter 2018

LEGISLATIVE

NEWSLETTER

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Page 1
Upcoming Events

Page 2
Opioids

Page 3
Education/ Congressman Bishop

Page 4
Martha Hughes Cannon

Page 5
Recap

Page 7
Bills Passed

Page 8
Announcements



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



TOWNHALL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6:00 PM

TAYLORSVILLE CITY HALL, COUNCIL
CHAMBERS

2600 WEST 5400 SOUTH

ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT IN THE SESSION



**COME JOIN REPRESENTATIVE
DUNNIGAN ON THE HOUSE
FLOOR**

FLOOR TIME IS MONDAY -
FRIDAY

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

EMAIL US TO SCHEDULE A TIME
CWRIGHT@LE.UTAH.GOV



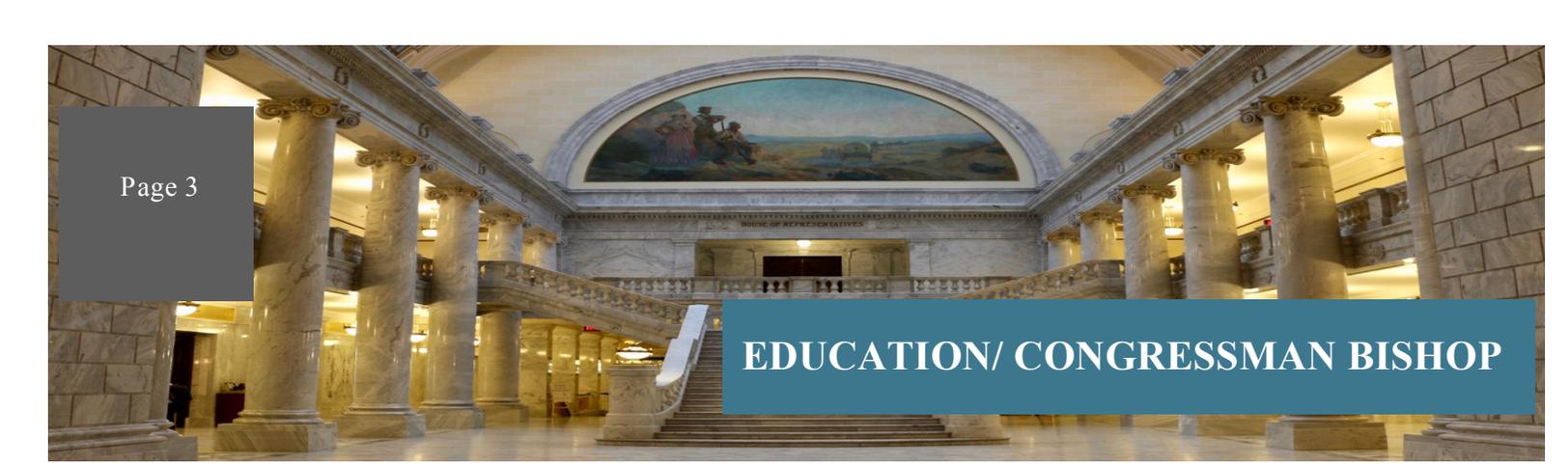
OPIOIDS

On average 24-25 Utahns die each month from opioid overdoses. The Utah Legislature is considering a resolution that calls upon the Attorney General to immediately take legal action against prescription opioid manufacturers. Serious allegations have been raised regarding deceptive marketing practices used by manufacturers and distributors.

Utah ranked 4th in the nation for drug overdose deaths, an average of six per week in 2014. These horrid statistics are more than just numbers; they represent the loss of human lives.

Measures are being taken in Utah to help combat the crisis, but we need to work to change the practices of companies that threaten the safety of our residents for their own financial gain. Sixteen states, dozens of local jurisdictions and Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington and Weber counties have already filed separate lawsuits against prescription opioid manufacturers to seek damages for the public costs of the opioid crisis.

Joining a multistate lawsuit with a myriad of other states does not allow us to adequately represent the needs and losses of Utah victims, and won't necessarily lead to a change in business practices by these companies. HJR 12, Joint Resolution Calling Upon the Attorney General to Sue Prescription Opioid Manufacturers, calls upon the Attorney General's Office to file a separate lawsuit against those companies whose practices and products have harmed Utahns. The goal is to change prescribing practices and put a stop to the rising rate of overdose deaths, maximize monetary gain to help reimburse the state for expenses associated with opioid abuse and hold accountable those whose actions created this destruction.



EDUCATION/ CONGRESSMAN BISHOP

Education

State dollars dedicated to education have grown at historic levels since 2015. Education clearly is and has been a priority for the Utah State Legislature, so much so that in the past three years, K-12 funding has increased by more than \$800 million – nearly 20 percent. In addition, the past two years, education spending accounted for the most significant portion of new money appropriated by the Utah Legislature.

This year is no exception; we will continue to prioritize education funding and aspire to do it without increasing the taxes of hard-working Utahns.

HB299 aims to dedicate approximately \$700 million to public schools over the next three to four years, and do it in a way that directly and positively impacts teacher pay. This legislation would also prioritize funding for improved teacher training, metrics to ensure children meet reading standards by third grade and technology in the classroom.

Congressman Bishop

Congressman Rob Bishop visited the State Capitol on February 12. Congressman Bishop, Utah's senior congressman, discussed how the military is in dire need of more funding, citing the fact that some branches of the military are at staffing levels significantly below minimum requirements. The new budget the Trump administration recently announced would address these issues and give our military the funding it needs.

Bishop praised the transparency and effectiveness of Utah's legislative process-and stated that it is much more efficient than Congress and recommended that we not change it.

Lastly, he advised legislators to think twice about accepting federal funding because of regulations that may chip away at Utah's ability to maintain state control.



Martha Hughes Cannon

On February 14, 1870, the first American woman to cast a vote in a state-wide election, Seraph Young, did so right here in Utah. Fast forward 148 years to February 14, 2018, when a concurrent resolution to have Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon represent Utah in the nation's Capital passed the House.

“Why Martha?” you may ask. Martha Cannon was a leader in the women's suffrage movement. She obtained two medical degrees, from the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor's degree in public speaking from the National School of Elocution and Oratory in Philadelphia.

In 1870, women were granted the right to vote in Utah—50 years before the 19th Amendment granted that right nationwide—but Congress removed it in the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887. Martha was a key player in ensuring that the right of women to vote and hold public office were included in the Utah Constitution in 1895.

Shortly afterward, Martha ran for Utah State Senate and won against a number of candidates, including none other than her own husband. She became the first-ever female state senator in the United States in 1896, more than 20 years before most women in the country were even able to cast a vote.

Each state is represented by two historical figures in the National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C., with ours being Brigham Young and Philo T. Farnsworth. [SCR1](#) proposes to replace Farnsworth's statue, which has been there for 32 years, with one of Martha Hughes Cannon.

2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which made voting possible for *all* women. As our nation commemorates women's suffrage in 2020, Utah should stand up and celebrate its own historic and groundbreaking role in this effort.

Learn more about Martha by watching a short video [here](#).

Recap

Film Day

Lights, camera, action! February 14 was Film Day on the Hill. The film industry educated lawmakers and visitors on the work it takes to create a movie. Utah's backdrop has been home to more than 1,400 films, including *127 Hours* and *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*.



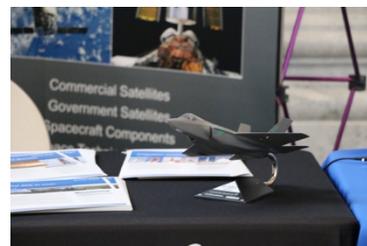
Pharmacy Day

White coats flooded the Rotunda as pharmacists, pharmacy students and pharmacy technicians presented information about medicine and research during Pharmacy Day on the Hill. In the center of it all, various free health screenings were offered to visitors including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose and pulmonary (lungs) function tests. Some representatives stopped by to see how they are holding up now that we are halfway through this year's legislative session. Results showed we have some healthy people representing Utah. Watch [here](#).



Aerospace Day

Aerospace Day on the Hill took over the Capitol Rotunda on February 8 for the third year in a row. Legislators and industry experts discussed ways to help strengthen the industry and generate more jobs.



Stay Connected

The Utah House of Representatives offers access to live and previous coverage of House Floor proceedings and committee hearings from the [legislative website](#). You can view current session, search the archive of past sessions, track bills, read proposed legislation and more at le.utah.gov.

Follow the Utah Reps on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay connected to what is happening, get a behind the scenes look and receive daily updates. You can also contact your representative at house.utah.gov.



Recap

Rep. Dunnigan started off the week by meeting with employees from various tech companies, including, eBay, Amazon, and Dell and discussing the growing tech industry here in Utah.



Rep. Dunnigan meeting with teachers from David Gourley and West Kearns Elementary School and sharing ideas about improvements and goals in our district's schools this year.



At a conference for the Workforce and Economic Development Advisory Board, where Rep. Dunnigan discussed the potential job opportunities for the formerly incarcerated.



Bills Passed:

- HB00013S01: Public Safety Peer Counseling Provisions
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0013.html>
- HB0021S02: Changes to Property Tax
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0021.html>
- HB0062S01: Property Rights Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0062.html>
- HB0075S01: Child Sexual Abuse Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0075.html>
- HB0079: Private Attorney General Doctrine
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0079.html>
- HB0129: Self-defense Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0129.html>
- HB0160: Domestic Violence Provisions
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0160.html>
- HB0163S02: Prescription Drug Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0163.html>
- HB0197S02: Cannabis Cultivation Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0197.html>
- HB0229: Surviving Spouse Insurance Death Benefit Amendments
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0229.html>

March

8

**Last Day of
the Session**

February

19

**President's
Day**

EVENTS

**Townhall
Meeting
at the
Taylorsville
City Hall**

February

20

6:00 PM

**Come Join
Rep. Dunnigan
on the
House Floor
for Debates**

**To Schedule a Time Email
us at**

cwright@le.utah.gov

**To read
previous
Newsletters,**

visit [my](#)

[website](#).