

News From The States

THIS WEEK IN COMMENTARY

Welcome to the best opinion pieces of the week from **News From The States**. Our commentary includes our own journalists from across our extensive network as well as outside voices to bring a wide range of perspectives and ideas. In addition to the sampling below, [you can look through all our commentary here](#).

TOP COMMENTARY OF THE WEEK

‘Pro-life’ Catholic leaders have helped block Medicaid expansion as 1,500 Kansans died

Clay Wirestone | *Kansas Reflector*



*Kansans demonstrate in support of Medicaid expansion during a March 15, 2023, rally at the Statehouse in Topeka.
(Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)*

The number to remember today, to remember every day in Kansas, is 1,500.

That's the number of Kansas adults whose deaths can be blamed on the stubborn refusal of state officials to expand Medicaid. Not a few dozen or hundred, but 1,500 souls, their lives cut

short for the sake of ideology.

I want you to etch that number in your mind: 1,500. We're going to be talking about morality today, and any claims about what's right or wrong when it comes to expansion must be weighed against that staggering toll. We're going to broach the subject of religion, and we know how insistent a certain breed of cleric can be on the topic of life and one's right to it.

So just remember that 1,500 Kansans have died.

What about their right to life?

[Read this commentary](#)

[Strict Oklahoma abortion laws could have unintended consequences for nonviable pregnancies](#)

Janelle Stecklein | *Oklahoma Voice*

[Ohio GOP lawmakers bully trans kids for Christmas, shedding themselves of any basic human decency](#)

David DeWitt | *Ohio Capital Journal*

[Part of a tiny minority in the judicial system, three Black women are safeguarding the rule of law](#)

Vanessa Gallman | *Kentucky Lantern*

[The debate over letting ex-offenders sit on juries includes odious fear-mongering](#)

Terrence T. McDonald | *New Jersey Monitor*

[Retirements, resignations of moderate Republicans bode ill for all Tennesseans](#)

J. Holly McCall | *Tennessee Lookout*

[Minnesota Supreme Court gets us closer to ending the travesty of Minnesota school segregation](#)

J. Patrick Coolican | *Minnesota Reformer*

Knudsen's defense of his actions is long on sentiment, but short on the law

Darrell Ehrlick | *Daily Montanan*

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