

**State of Kansas**  
**Office of the Senate Majority Leader**



**Jim Denning**  
State Senator, 8<sup>th</sup> District

May 8, 2020

It is with great thought and reflection that I announce I will not seek another term in the Kansas Legislature. For nearly 10 years I have served the people of Kansas in the House and Senate and I have decided that now is the time I return my focus to my healthcare employer and to my wife, Marearl. Thank you to my staff, Ethan Patterson, Mary Sabatini, and Toni Beck, and my fellow legislators for your support and hard work over the years – it has been a pleasure to serve with you.

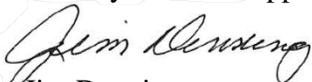
Throughout this journey, I have promoted fiscally responsible policy and remained focused on evaluating all legislation in a practical and pragmatic fashion. Looking back, I have served on 26 different committees and held leadership positions on 9 of those. On the floor, I have voted on over 2,800 bills and resolutions and have confirmed nearly 260 appointments. Every vote was evaluated and made with the same scrutiny and was never taken lightly.

I am proud of what we accomplished over the years. I worked to create a more stable tax policy in 2016, helped write legislation that funded schools and ended our ten year battle with the courts in 2019, and wrote legislation to stabilize the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) for our teachers and dedicated public servants. I leave pleased to have started the process of Star Bond transparency and reform after \$42 million was unaccounted for in 2016. Finally, I am proud to have written a bipartisan plan to expand public and private healthcare access for Kansans this session and even though partisan politics were played, I am still appreciative of the efforts made.

As a legislator, you are elected to represent your district. Unfortunately, I have seen too much hyper partisan gamesmanship and we should not allow such partisanship to continue in this pattern. There is a dire need for legislators to focus not on singular goals but rather on the big picture of each policy we are presented. My hope for the future is legislators find a way to work together, across the aisle and rotunda, and focus not on partisan wins, but rather on what will help Kansans. I think they will find much more can be accomplished working together than working against one another.

No legislator will accomplish everything they set out to do, but we do our best to ensure our district is represented and that we serve our people responsibly. I am proud to have been entrusted to represent our community in Senate District 8 and House District 19 these last 10 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you,

  
Jim Denning

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