



Representative Cindy Golding

House District 83

Under the Golden Dome **Summer Edition #2**

Hi friends,

It has been a very busy time since the session ended in May. In addition to visiting with constituents, I have attended several meetings regarding ongoing legislative challenges.

On June 2nd, Health and Human Services Director Kelly Garcia visited with Linn County legislators to review how the reorganization of government will improve services. She said that HACAP and other organizations have built a great foundation for the Linn County area and will be using several model ideas from here to help around the state.

CO2 Pipeline Update: Federal regulators from PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration -Division of the DOT) held a 2-day public meeting in Des Moines. Landowners and other citizens expressed their concerns. I presented questions raised by many of my constituents in District 83, mainly involving the safety of surrounding residents and the preparedness of the Emergency Management Services in the area. Sequestering liquified CO₂ as a means to transfer our tax dollars to Ethanol and Fertilizer industry corporate profits is just plain wrong! When combined with the forced taking of private land it gets worse. But the greatest problem is the SAFETY of our communities.

Several troubling facts emerged:

- 1) During meetings at the Capitol, regulators said that NO serious injuries occurred with the liquid CO₂ pipeline rupture in Sartartia, MS, **but the fact is that 40+ people were hospitalized**, some with permanent health damage.*
- 2) Currently, there is minimal (25-50 ft) required set-back for safety, yet the pipeline rupture in Sartartia was nearly **ONE MILE** away from the town!*
- 3) The Wolf Pipeline (serving ADM) will be within feet, not miles, from homes, schools and businesses.*
- 4) The pipeline companies have refused to give landowners and surrounding communities the “plume map” should a potential rupture occur. They have claimed this is “proprietary information.” This map projects how liquid CO₂ would disperse and identifies the **KILL ZONE** – death within this area is rated in “seconds and minutes for survival.” This area is determined by the pressure and temperature in the pipeline.*
- 5) The most egregious abuse of private property rights is being conducted by SUMMIT Carbon Solutions as they bully their way across Iowa and into surrounding states. They are conducting “surveys” with heavy equipment and armed guards, entering property, barns, sheds and homes without permission.*
- 6) Pipelines such as these may be allowed wherever CO₂ is considered a manufacturing by-product.*

I will continue to fight CO₂ pipelines with every tool at my disposal. I recommend you, too, get involved to fight this boondoggle that is truly just a way to transfer your tax dollars to big cats and foreign investors that care nothing about Iowa farmland or the safety of our people.

A quick reminder:

[House File 718](#) *For any Iowan homeowner 65 years old or older, there is an immediate reduction on your property assessment, but you MUST apply for it by July 1, 2023. Any applications received after July 1 will qualify for the reduction next year.*

Click this link for the form - [Homestead exemption for 65 Years + home owners](#).

Here are some of the education reforms we passed as requested by parents, teachers and administrators:

[House File 604](#) – Teacher Empowerment Signed into Law

While striving to improve Iowa's educational systems, we engaged all stake holders. This bill is the result of teachers willing to come forward. Classroom teachers came to us with shocking stories of the student behavioral issues they are asked to deal with on a daily basis. Too often, these teachers are not getting the support they need from their administrations. In many ways, they are hindered in their ability to discipline students that are disruptive and they are unable to protect themselves against students who are violent.

This bill (HF604):

- Allows teachers to make a complaint directly to the ombudsman's office regarding violence in the classroom and requires the ombudsman to investigate.
- Requires the school district to ensure their teachers know their rights regarding teacher immunity when coming into physical contact with a violent student.
- Includes teacher whistleblower protections.
- Require schools to develop an escalated discipline policy for disruptive or violent students. This policy must include the ability to suspend or permanently remove a student from a class, expel, or move the student to an alternative learning environment. The policy must also include the ability to send the student to counseling with parental consent.

[House File 430](#) – BOEE Reform Signed into Law (Board of Educational Examiners)

- As one of our top priorities for the year, the Iowa House set out to reform the way the Board of Educational Examiners addresses serious complaints against teachers and ensure that parents are also represented on the board.
- We accomplished this goal by making the following reforms to the Board of Education Examiners
 - Changes the make-up of the BOEE, which currently is all education bureaucrats. This bill changes the makeup to four members of the general public, 8 licensed practitioners and the director of the Department of Education or a designee.
 - Requires mandatory reporters to report child abuse for all children up to 18.
 - Requires schools to keep an employment history of school employees that potential employers can review. This will help ensure that bad actors cannot avoid discipline by hopping from school to school.

- Prohibits districts from entering an agreement that doesn't allow the district or the employee to discuss the reason for termination of a contract.
- We know the vast majority of teachers are great people who are doing great work for our students. But there must be a system in place to remove the ones that are harming our children.

Senate File 496 – Parent Empowerment Signed into Law

A number of House bills were consolidated in the more comprehensive Senate bill. There are several pieces contained in the final bill.

- Establishes a parent's or guardian's right to make decisions affecting their children.
 - Prevents schools from having policies that keep secrets from parents about their child's gender identity.
 - If a student requests an accommodation at school for a gender identity that is different than their gender at birth, the teacher must report that information to the administration and the administration must tell the parents. It also removes the teacher from the situation so they can stick to what they really signed up to do – teaching.
- Authorizes the parent or guardian of a student to enroll the student in another attendance center within the same school district in certain specified circumstances.
- Prohibits curriculum on gender identity or sexual orientation in K-6th grade.
- Modifies provisions related to student health screenings.
 - Schools must get parental consent prior to giving surveys and must share who created and sponsored the survey as well as how the data is being used and stored.
- Modifies school district library programs.
 - Ensures all books in schools are “age-appropriate.”
 - It explicitly states that age appropriate books do not include books that contain graphic images or descriptions of a sex act.
 - This specifically DOES NOT BAN BOOKS, as claimed by Democrats and the liberal press.
- Specifies the educational program provided to students enrolled in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.
- See the bill for more specific details.

Remember, the Legislature passes laws but the implementation of the law happens at the local level. Your School Board hires the Superintendent that enforces the practice in your schools. The “non-partisan” School Board elections happen in November 2023.

Upcoming events:

Several Presidential candidates are making their way across Iowa. Regardless of your political affiliation or personal preferences, I encourage you to go to their events. As Iowans, we have a unique opportunity to see them without the filter of the media. Ask the hard questions. Decide for yourself which of the candidates best represents your values.

Linn County “Salute to Veterans” on July 11. (see below)
Linn County Fair – June 28 – July 2, Central City



LINCOLN DINNER

featuring

Governor Kim Reynolds



A SALUTE TO VETERANS

hosted by

The *new* Linn County
Republican Central Committee

11th July 2023

Veterans Memorial
Coliseum
Cedar Rapids
5:30 p.m.

Admission
\$125 per person
or \$200 per couple

Space is limited!
Reservations Required!

To register:
Use the QR Code on the right
or the link below this graphic



paid for by linn county gop

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-lincoln-dinner-tickets-638110905897>

Use the QR Code above or click [HERE](#) to register.

What's Next?? Stay in touch.

Go to CindyGolding.com or email me at cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov or call me at 319-360-1028

Have a wonderful weekend! *Cindy*