



REPRESENTATIVE CINDY GOLDING
IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 83

UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME:

This Week at the Capitol:

It's the end of week 4 and every day is another opportunity to learn something new. The pace is accelerating as we proceed with sub-committees, committees and debate. Learning the nuts and bolts of legislation has been intense.

It is such an honor to represent you- the highlights of this week are below.

HF102 - Medical Malpractice Tort Reform: What exactly does this mean?

For the medical professional it means a reasonable protection from outrageous claims. For regular Iowans, it may seem that their rights to compensation based on the decisions of a jury are being unduly limited. This bill limits only non-economic damages.

When a mistake is made and someone is hurt or dies, the injured party (or family) has a right to seek legal action to recover any and all economic loss. This includes expenses (referred to as "actual expenses") for any current and ongoing medical treatment plus current and future loss of income. Punitive damages may still apply in certain cases such as malice or serious negligence.

Non-economic damages are monetary awards over and above any actual expenses, current and future. This is an arbitrary number generally requested by a trial attorney representing the injured party. These awards have become a breeding ground for abuse of the system.

Here are the facts: There is no simple solution to what has become a "lottery" for the legal profession and a gamble for insurance companies. Medical professionals have been put out of business by "the sky's the limit" jury decisions. Insurance companies have refused to settle claims, even at the request of their client, the doctor. Instead, the insurance company can pursue a trial, knowing their only risk is the limit of the policy. When the jury decides a guilty verdict and awards huge non-economic damages, the doctor must pay anything over the limit of the liability insurance. The insurance company is gambling with the

doctor's future. This law simply limits the NON-ECONOMIC damages to One Million dollars. Any and all economic damages are not affected by this bill.

This bill still allows anyone with a medical claim to pursue full economic damages PLUS up to one million dollars in non-economic damages. It still allows pursuit of punitive damages in certain cases such as malice or serious negligence. It also gives a measure of protection for the physicians from overzealous lawyers and insurance companies.

Iowa needs doctors, especially in rural Iowa. If we are to attract and retain doctors, particularly in specialty professions such as Ob-Gyn and other higher risk disciplines, we need to offer a stable environment for them. While HF102 doesn't address the problems of overzealous lawyers and greedy insurance companies, it is definitely a step in the right direction.

HF 3 – 'SNAP' Update

Ensuring Iowa's Welfare Program Remains Available for Eligible Iowans.

The intent of this bill is to ensure that Iowa's welfare programs are sustainable and in compliance with the federal government. On July 30, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) that the Department was not in compliance. As a result, the legislature is correcting the reporting issues and strengthening the support to Iowans in need of assistance.

Iowa's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was designed to emphasize healthy food. HF3 will be amended to simply prohibit candy and sodas. It will no longer be tied to the WIC program.

Thank you to all who contacted us about this issue. Please continue to monitor legislation and let me know when you see a problem.

State Government

AG Bird and 24 other Attorneys General Sue Biden Administration Over ESG Rule

Iowa's new Attorney General Bird joined a 25-state lawsuit against US Secretary of Labor, Martin Walsh and the U.S. Department of Labor over ESG policies. The lawsuit aims to halt the Department of Labor from overreaching through administrative rules.

The rule, titled "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights", amends the regulations in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. The original law aimed to maximize employee benefits by dictating that the fiduciaries for worker's plans must put financial returns and risk ahead of all other considerations. The newly adopted rule will allow companies to prioritize ESG policies when choosing retirement plans. This rule is meant enforce [Executive Order 14030](#) issued in May by President Biden. EO14030 state's that the Administration is to mitigate the "climate-related financial risk" and to achieve the target of a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

This activist policy and others are all at the cost of Americans' hard-earned pension and retirement funds. The rule went into effect on January 30, affecting over \$12 trillion in assets that are held in American retirement accounts.

The lawsuit joined by the state of Iowa intends to protect employees' pension plans by keeping activist investment policies in check and keeping the existing rules in place that prohibits placing emphasis on environmental boycotts over the financial interest of Americans. House Republicans remain committed to protecting the pension systems in place to serve Iowans from decision making and policies that are not in the best financial interest of our employees and retirees.

Veterans Affairs

Governor and Legislature Address Veterans Trust Fund Backlog

This week, the Governor approved \$440,000 of funding to cover the backlog of Iowa Veterans Trust Fund grants since November 2022. This fund was set up to help eligible veterans and their families with emergency needs.

The Trust Fund currently receives \$500,000 annually. In an effort to continue to meet the emergency needs of our veterans and their families, the Iowa House unanimously passed House File 142. This bill increases the appropriation to \$800,000 annually. The Legislature wants to ensure that Iowa veterans receive the assistance they need and deserve.

If you or a veteran family member would like more information about available programs, please contact your County VSO.



Linn-Mar FFA students, Carl Rathje, Zoey Wecker, Emily Ritzie, Miya Schloemer, and their teacher Barb Lemmer, visited the Capitol on Tuesday!!



More of Linn-County FFA students, Ethan Hosek, Landon Stolte, Andrew Unash, Shylie Port, Ellie Rundall, Madeline Robinson Valley, and Katelyn Schaul!!



Visiting with Mike Vratsinas and Brady Werner Chair of IDDC (Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council).



Cedar Rapids friends from the Iowa Association of Realtors



Linn-Mar Moms for Liberty pose a picture.



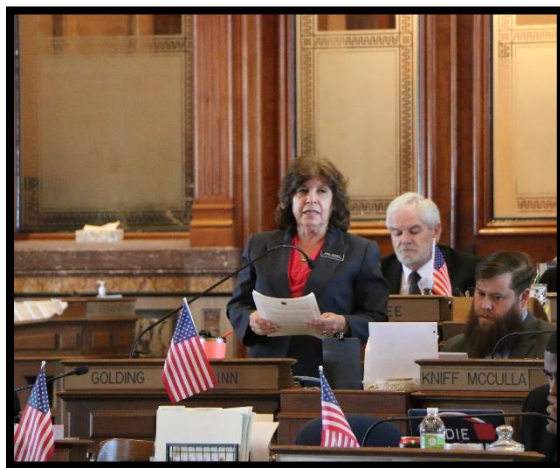
A good friend of mine, Richard Bice, came for Alzheimer's Advocacy Day on the Hill.



Highlights of the week, including, Water Day on the Hill, where Cedar Rapids received “the Best Tasting Water in Iowa” Award, the Fire Fighters Chili Cook-off, and Iowa Recycling Association.



Iowa Professional Fire Fighters Day on the Hill



I ran my first bill on the House Floor, HF 158. Watch the video using the link below:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/dashboard?view=video&chamber=H&clip=h20230202095755859&dt=2023-02-02&offset=1322&bill=HF%20158&status=i>

The Student First Act:

I wanted to share a link about HF 68 (ESA bill)

<https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/education-savings-accounts>

At the bottom of the webpage, there is a place for folks to subscribe to get updates whenever anything changes.



Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives, is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see. - Corrie Ten Boom