



REPRESENTATIVE CINDY GOLDING
IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 83

UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME:

This Week at the Capitol:

Well, friends ... It has been another exciting week in Des Moines. Every day in the Rotunda, we learn about the wide variety of opportunities in Iowa. The Rotunda is always filled with organizations sharing their vision for our great state. This week I enjoyed visiting with high school students involved in DECA, FBLA, FFA, STEM and many more. (see the photos below)

Please come visit. It is “The People’s House”

EDUCATION is a PRIORITY!

[House File 171: SSA Funding Increase](#)

This week, we passed, and the Governor signed, a bill to increase SSA funding by 3%, an increase from the original 2.5% proposed.

- Supplemental State Aid, often called SSA, is the amount of new funding committed by the state to local school districts.
- This increase amounts to \$106.8 million more than Fiscal Year 2023, and a total of about \$3.7 billion to School Foundation Aid.
- The typical Democrat response is “Republicans are underfunding public education.”
- The reality is that Republicans are responsible for record-high education investments over the last decade. K-12 education funding has increased by almost a billion new dollars over the last 10 years.
- Don’t be fooled. The last time education funding was actually cut was when Democrats had the trifecta in 2010.

Government Oversight Hearing on Sexually Explicit Material in Schools

From my humble perspective, I find it shocking that we even have to argue this point with the minority party, but **sexually explicit material does NOT belong in K-12 schools.**

This week, five Iowa moms were invited to share their experience challenging age-inappropriate books in their child's school library or curriculum.

- These moms gave examples of sexually explicit descriptions and images, and shared stories of retaliation by teachers and administrators for voicing their concern.
- *Let me be clear* - I must warn you. Examples of the books these mothers challenged have material that is very explicit. [Gender Queer](#), [All Boys Aren't Blue](#), [Push and more.](#)
- On school computers this same exact content is blocked. What makes it okay to be available in book form?
- This isn't about banning books and it's not about the LGBTQ community. This is to ensure **sexually explicit material** isn't available in public schools without parental knowledge and consent.
- The process to challenge a book is a bureaucratic nightmare and gives little to no power to parents and, in many cases, results in retaliation from the school. One of the moms had to hire a lawyer just to help navigate the one-sided process.
- Democrats have been dismissive of the issue.
- Government Oversight is working to set up another meeting with the school administrators so they can share their side of the story as well.

Stay tuned as we move forward with this very important discussion. If you are interested, you can watch the hearings live on the Iowa legislature website.

[House File 161](#) – Medical Malpractice Noneconomic Damages

This week, the Iowa House passed HF 161. This bill limits the amount of noneconomic damages that can be awarded for a medical malpractice claim at \$2 million if the incident happened at a hospital and \$1 million if it happened somewhere else.

- In a case of medical malpractice that results in loss of a bodily function, substantial disfigurement, or death, there are three types of damages a jury can award:
 - Economic damages – quantifiable damages like lost wages, loss of future earning capacity, cost of medical bills, loss of ability as a caregiver. This bill does not limit what can be awarded to the plaintiff in economic damages.
 - Punitive damages – Deliberate disregard for the rights or safety of the patient. This bill does not limit what can be awarded to the plaintiff in punitive damages. This bill does make one change to ensure all punitive damages are awarded to the family, rather than a portion being awarded to the state, as is current law.
 - Noneconomic damages – mental or emotional anguish or other suffering that can't be quantified. This bill caps noneconomic damages at \$1 million, adjusted for inflation annual beginning in 2028.
- No amount of money can ever make up for the loss of a loved one. But in Iowa, massive noneconomic damage awards have increased exponentially. They drive up liability costs and the cost of providing care in Iowa.
- One massive award for noneconomic damages can close a smaller hospital or a physician's practice, leaving all of those Iowans without access to the care they may need.

- We need to compensate people for medical injuries, but we also need to keep Iowa’s health care industry intact, and make sure health care is there for Iowans when they need it, especially in rural Iowa.

Labor/Workforce

Third Quarter 2022 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Released

The third quarter 2022 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data has been released. This data is a census of jobs covered by unemployment insurance and is available for Iowa and the 99 counties by sector and subsector. The available data now covers the first quarter of 2011 through the third quarter of 2022.

To view the updated data visit the [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) page.

This data is very helpful to see what employment sectors and subsectors look like across the state of Iowa as a whole, as well as broken down by county.

State Government

Gubernatorial Line of Succession Passes House

The House passed [House Joint Resolution 3](#), a proposed Constitutional amendment to clarify and update the line of succession for the office of Governor. Article IV, Section 17 of the Iowa Constitution states in the case there is a vacancy in the office of Governor, that the powers and duties of the Governor devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor. Following the appointment of Governor Branstad as the Ambassador to China there has been legal debate over the line of gubernatorial succession and what that means for filling vacancies and powers of the offices.

Addressing this legal issue is important for Iowans to know that in the case of a vacancy in the office of Governor what the legal line of succession is. HJR 3 would replace and update Section 17 to clarify that the Lieutenant Governor or Lieutenant Governor-elect assumes the office if a vacancy occurs. The ascension to Governor then creates a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, which can be filled by the new Governor as the Democrats wrote into Iowa law in 2009.

Amendments to the Iowa Constitution are required to pass both legislative chambers in consecutive General Assemblies. Last year, both the House and Senate passed the language. If the legislation passes the Senate, the proposed amendment will appear on the ballot in November 2024 for Iowans to ratify.

Veterans Affairs

Governor Selects New Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard

This week, Governor Reynolds selected Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Osborn as the 28th Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard. The press release provided the following:

Osborn is a native of Davenport, Iowa. He enlisted in the Army in July 1984 prior to commissioning as an infantry officer through the University of Alabama in 1990. He transferred to the Iowa Army National Guard in 1992 and has served in a variety of command and staff positions, to include: commander of the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment; deputy operations officer, 34th Infantry Division; director of operations, Joint Force Headquarters; commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division; and director of the Joint Staff.

Osborn is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1991 in support of the Persian Gulf War. He deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian in 2004 and to Iraq in 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He has served as the Iowa Army National Guard's deputy adjutant general since August 2018 and as the deputy commanding general of the Army National Guard at the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The adjutant general is the highest-ranking position in the Iowa National Guard. Osborn will manage more than 2,000 federal and state full-time employees as well as nearly 9,000 part-time Soldiers and Airmen.

Osborn will replace Maj. Gen. Benjamin J. Corral, who has served as the adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard since September 2019. Corral announced his retirement from the position in January 2023.

Specifically, For My Hunter Friends

DNR To Hold Public Meetings Recapping Hunting, Trapping Seasons, Discuss Possible Rule Changes

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release announcing that DNR is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff will provide updates on recently completed hunting and trapping seasons, discuss possible changes, and address other topics as requested. The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations.

Meeting date, time and location

- DeWitt, February 20, 7 p.m., DeWitt Community Library, 917 Fifth Avenue
- Waverly, February 20, 6 p.m., Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Avenue
- Bloomfield, February 21, 6 p.m., Wapello County Conservation Board Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, 1339 Hwy. 63
- Creston, February 21, 6 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Southern Prairie YMCA, 1201 West Townline Street
- Des Moines, February 21, 6:45 p.m., Des Moines Izaak Walton League, 4343 George Flagg Parkway
- Lake View, February 21, 6:30 p.m., Speaker Park Shelter House, 418 North Blossom Street
- Perry, February 21, 7 p.m., Forest Park Museum Building, 14581 K Avenue
- Toledo, February 21, 7 p.m., Otter Creek Lake & Park Nature Center, 2283 Park Road
- Algona, February 22, 6:30 p.m., Waters Edge Nature Center, 1010 250th Street
- Okoboji, February 22, 6 p.m., Maser Monarch Lodge, 22785 Nature Center Road
- Onawa, February 22, 6 p.m., Lewis and Clark State Park visitor center, 21914 Park Loop
- Ventura, February 22, 7 p.m., Iowa DNR Wildlife Office, 15326 Balsam Avenue
- Chariton, February 23, 6:30 p.m., Chariton Community Center Rooms A & B, 502 North Main Street
- Council Bluffs, February 23, 6:30 p.m., Council Bluffs Fish and Game Club, 531 Comanche St.
- Decorah, February 23, 7 p.m., Franklin W. Olin Building, Room 102, Luther College, 700 College Drive, next to the Prues Library
- Dubuque, February 23, 7 p.m., EB Lyons Nature Center at Mines of Spain, 8991 Bellevue Heights Road
- Iowa City, February 23, 7 p.m., Johnson County ISU Extension Office, 3109 Old Hwy. 218 South
- Wapello, February 23, 6 p.m., Langwood Education Center, 14019 H Ave.

Grant Funds Available for Communities Impacted by the 2020 Derecho

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release announcing that the Iowa Legislature appropriated state infrastructure funds to DNR to be used for a community-based tree planting program for derecho recovery tree planting in 27 impacted counties.

Additionally, through the USDA Forest Service & National Association of State Foresters 2022 State Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program, the DNR received Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation funds. The Community Forestry Grant Program provides reimbursable grants to be used to purchase and plant trees suitable to Iowa in counties impacted by both the August 2020 Derecho and Emerald Ash Borer. A total of \$125,220 in funds are available to state and local governments, schools and volunteer organizations, and service organizations in the 27 impacted counties. Award recipients will be reimbursed \$1,000 to \$10,000 for the purchase of trees and materials from Iowa businesses. Qualifying public planting lands include, but are not limited to, street rights-of-way, parks, school grounds, courthouse lawns, public buildings, fairgrounds, cemeteries, libraries, and trails (DNR lands are not eligible). Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023. The spring application and rules are available online at www.iowadnr.gov/urbanforestry.



Officers Jason Sims and Eric Costanzo visit, the Capitol, during Iowa State Police Association's Legislative Breakfast.



STEM students demonstrating Cyber-Security and bio-degradable polymers.



Education opportunities in Iowa.



Surprise visit from a friend, Brent Mason.

Have a great weekend, Cindy

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

