



**Representative Cindy Golding**

**House District 83**

## **Under the Golden Dome #8**

### **This Week at the Capitol:**

#### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> Ends 1<sup>st</sup> Funnel week!**

As a new legislator I've been warned "*Funnel week is do or die*"

So, what does that mean?

For weeks we have been holding sub-committee meetings, public hearings and gathering additional information that might influence legislation. Then, once a bill passes out of sub-committee it goes to the full committee to be voted up or down. All bills in the House must pass out of committee and all bills in the Senate must pass out of committee by March 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to be brought to the floor for a full House or Senate vote.

The committees I serve on are:

**Local Government (Vice Chair)**  
**State Government**

**Veteran's Affairs**  
**Labor & Workforce**

Several important bills have completed the process during last week. The more difficult and controversial issues are being hammered out this week. Our meetings can last hours as we debate the merits of the legislation. As you might imagine, some of those things can be pretty intense. By Friday night we will know which bills are still "alive."

The next or 2<sup>nd</sup> funnel is March 31, when Senate bills have to pass the House and House bills have to pass the Senate.

## **HSB 206 – Teacher Empowerment**

- When talking with teachers in Iowa, it is shocking to hear the behavioral issues of students that they are asked to deal with on a daily basis.
- Too often, these teachers are not getting the support they need from their administration. And in many ways, they are hindered in their ability to discipline students that are disruptive and to protect themselves against students that are violent.
- HSB 206 came about after receiving feedback from teachers about their experiences in the classroom. It has passed the Education committee. It is likely not in its final form and we are continuing to work with folks in education to make it the best bill possible.
- In its current form, HSB 206:
  - 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 in physical contact with a violent student.
  - Requires teachers to notify the parent/guardian within 24 hours if they witness student injury.
  - Includes teacher whistleblower protections.
  - Lays out a 3-strike system for student discipline. First offense - meet with school counselor and one day of in-school suspension. Second offense - meet with school counselor and 5 days of in-school suspension. Third offense - student is removed from that class and if in high school, will not receive credit for that class.

## **HSB 214 – Prohibiting Transgender Procedures on Children**

- This week, the Judiciary Committee advanced a bill to ban transgender surgeries and harmful hormonal therapy from being used on Iowa children.
- Earlier in the year, the House Government Oversight Committee reached out to the four major hospital systems in Iowa asking about their transgender surgeries, procedures and treatments.
- Two hospitals responded that they do not do any surgery or hormone therapy for children. However, Unity Point provides hormone therapy and puberty blockers, and UIHC provides hormone therapy, puberty blockers as well as top surgery to children.
- These gender transition services are permanent, life-altering decisions with serious risks and side effects including sterilization. Children are just too young to understand the full impact of these decisions.
- In many ways, we limit children and their parents from making choices they are too young to make. A child can't consume alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or gamble, even with parental consent.
- These kids are struggling and they deserve support and care -not harmful, experimental treatments. This law will help give Iowa children the time to mature and grow into themselves before making such a life-altering decision.



Linn County Legislators and Linn County Labor Representatives.



iJAG student Christian in the speaker's chair with his teacher Carlee; and Iowa Child Advocacy Board (icab).



Iowa Food Bank Association.



Community College Day, running into an old friend, Tim Busch.

*God bless,  
Cindy*