



Representative Cindy Golding

House District 83

Under the Golden Dome **Summer Edition #5**

Hi friends!

The calendar races on ... summer farm work, teaching Constitution classes, volunteering, parades and festivals, Iowa State Fair, and now school is back in session.

The “Summer Recess” has been anything but a recess as I work together with constituents facing challenges from various governmental agencies. Many of the issues are directly related to local government, but some come from a State agency “over-reach” or a mis-interpreted law. Together, we try to get to the root-cause of the problem and search for a positive resolution. Most of the problems are the result of media-generated misinformation.

I work with other members of the Iowa House as we share these challenges and successes. We have met several times to “slog” through the legal ramifications and finite details of legislation already in the Code of Iowa. We also meet regularly with legislators from other states to discuss possible pitfalls and road blocks we may encounter in the courts.

Several of us met with key members of the Iowa Department of Public Safety to discuss how we could assist them in their mission to protect our children.

*By request, I have added a **Constituent Information** section to my newsletter. There you will find links to various events and trainings that may be of interest to you or someone you know.*

Here are just a few of the topics on my summer agenda:

- 1) Election integrity and security*
- 2) Eminent domain: for profit company vs private citizen property rights*
- 3) Safety for communities near CO2 pipelines (Kill Zone identification)*
- 4) Human trafficking in Iowa*
- 5) ESG and it’s impact on our state*
- 6) Title IX (women’s sports)*
- 7) Child protection laws and Statute of Limitations*
- 8) Urban vs Rural - legislative challenges*
- 9) CCP influence in Iowa*
- 10) Constitutionality of Over-Zealous, non-elected regulators (yes, here in Iowa just like Wash DC)*

I am meeting with the school superintendents and city councils around District 83. Many of our small towns and small school districts have similar concerns. We know that “one size” does not fit all! As I hear the successes and concerns, I am able to share those perspectives and advocate for our small towns and rural communities in Des Moines.

All of the issues above could be overwhelming – but there are reasons to celebrate our work to date. Here are a few of my YES votes that are having a positive impact:

- 1) Increased Economic Development for small towns.*
- 2) Increased SSA (state funding) to schools.*
- 3) Increased funding flexibility for small schools.*
- 4) Reduced barriers for “Farm to Consumer” sales*
- 5) Restriction of graphic, sexually explicit books from school libraries.*
- 6) \$6,500 Real Estate tax credit for Seniors and increased credits for veterans.*
- 7) Increased opportunities for rural medical services.*
- 8) Parental Empowerment bill (SF496)*
- 9) Teacher Empowerment bill (HF604)*
- 10) New opportunities for students to gain real-world work experience. (SF542)*
- 11) Stronger Human trafficking laws.*
- 12) Stronger Child-protection laws.*

Reality check

School Choice or Education Savings Accounts (ESA): I have received many questions about this topic and have read quite a bit of misinformation from many sources.

Let’s start with the law as it existed **prior** to 2023 - If a student open-enrolled to another public school, the new district received \$7,635 state funding per student while the home district only received about \$800 of other state funds.

For example, in Alburnett School District (my home district) nearly 40% of the student population is open enrolled from other public schools. Alburnett has received the state funding for those students. The home district retained the real estate taxes but lost most of the state dollars.

So now we have the School Choice (ESA) program:

- ESA is NOT a voucher system!
- Iowa schools receive an average of about \$17,000 per student from all government sources.
- The ESA dollars come from the State – not your real estate taxes marked for the school district (57.24% of my real estate tax goes to K-12 education; every district is different)
- 100% of Real Estate tax dollars for K-12 education stay with your local school.
- Students First Act approved approx. 18,600 students for an Education Savings Account (ESA).
- Of those children, approx. 60% were *already* attending private schools.
- Last year, the public school received **\$0** state dollars for those students in private schools.
- The new law provides the **public school** approx. \$1,205 per student or nearly **\$13,450,000** additional funding to public schools that they did not receive last year.
- The 1st year a public school student enrolls in a private school, the public school still receives \$7,635 state dollars for that student! The following year, the public school will receive \$1,205 for that student. This allows the public school time to adjust for the change of enrollment.
- Public schools receive additional dollars for children with disabilities. Private schools do not receive that increase.
- Remember: public schools still receive ALL restate tax dollars earmarked for your school district regardless of attendance.

Constituent Information:

(these links are provided for your convenience and are not an endorsement)

- **Grant Writing Training - Des Moines – Sept. 11-12**
Des Moines Policy Training Academy and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines.
For event details visit: <http://grantstraining.com/ia0923>
- **Iowa Liberty Fest - Johnston – Sept. 16, 1PM**
Special Guests: James O’Keefe, Steve Deace, Connor Boyack
The mission of this non-partisan organization is to preserve and restore liberty in Iowa.
For details click [here](#)
- **Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition – Presidential Town Hall, Des Moines – Sept. 16, doors open 3:30PM.** The purpose is to educate and influence voters and politicians to keep their commitment to both liberty and law. Most of the Presidential candidates will be there in person. If you haven’t met them, now is the time.
For tickets click [here](#)
- **Biblical Citizenship (2 options)** – An 8-week study of the Founding Fathers and their beliefs that inspired the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
 - ✓ **Cedar Rapids, Calvary Community Church;** starting Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 PM
To register call Aaron at 319-363-3683
 - ✓ **Cedar Rapids, Radiant Church,** starting Thursday, Sept 21, 2023, 6:15 PM
To register call Joe at 319-360-1173
- **Reagan Breakfast -A Salute to Teachers – Cedar Rapids, Oct. 18 7AM**
Hundreds of teachers, coaches and volunteers work to teach solid American values and respect for our nation, pushing back against the tidal wave of the “woke” indoctrination. This event celebrates their efforts.
For tickets click [here](#)

Around the District:



Left:
Statesmen Leadership Conference with other Freshmen Legislators



Right:
Serious conversation with Senator Joni Ernst



A beautiful day for a parade in Springville....and Alburnett, Lisbon, Ely, and Palo. Actually, some of those days were HOT but I always enjoy seeing our citizens and supporting our towns.



Legislators working together to protect Property Rights

Senators Alons, Guth and Salmon,
Representatives Osmundson, Golding,
Hayes, and Thomson

Moving mulch for the Church.

Derecho repairs almost complete!
One of the last jobs on this huge
project was mulching the landscape.
I had fun transporting mulch to
dozens of volunteers. Many hands
make a task easier and fun!



A Founding Father Quote for today:

“Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government;
..whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them
to rights” – Thomas Jefferson to Richard Price, 1789

So 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 week!

Cindy