Representative Cindy Golding

House District 83
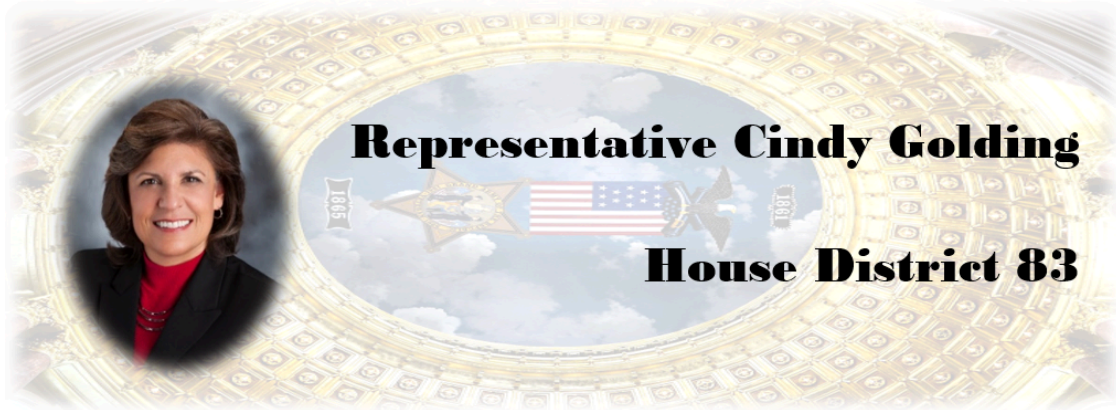
Under the Golden Dome
Week #2 – 2024

Hello friends,

This year has started off with a BANG! While many of you were getting prepared for Caucus, the weather was not cooperating. I'm proud to say that lots of snow and sub-zero temperatures did not deter Iowans. It was great to see so many friends, old & new.

Now that the candidates have moved on to other states, we can focus on the business at hand. Governor Reynolds' Condition of the State speech spelled out some very bold goals for this session. The most controversial topic was the discussion the Area Education Agencies (AEA).

The Governor's bill (HSB542) outlines an aggressive restructuring of the AEA system, focusing on students with special needs and removing many of the other services.

This caught many of us - legislators, teachers, parents. and AEA employees - by surprise!

It is important to know that the US Department of Education has called out Iowa as "needs assistance" in the implementation of the "Individuals with Disabilities Act" since 2018. We have been told that if Iowa does not act, the Biden Administration could determine the path beginning in Sept 2024. Additionally, while our students with disabilities score in the bottom 30%, our investment in their education is significantly higher than surrounding states. The Governor believes we need better results from taxpayer dollars.

Since her speech, I have received hundreds of emails, phone calls and personal visits from constituents extremely concerned about the impact on students, especially in our smaller school districts. Many have given solid suggestions for improvements and efficiencies that would enhance the AEA operations. Groups of legislators have met with the Governor and her staff to share concerns and ideas.

As it currently stands, HSB542 will be amended before it comes to the floor for a vote. I want to thank all who have taken time to contact me. I haven't been able to respond to everyone, but know that I have read every email and have communicated your concerns to the Governor.

Other news from the Capitol

<u>Veterans Affairs Committee</u>

We had a presentation by Todd Jacobus, Commandant of Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. He gave us an update on the Iowa Veterans Home, Iowa Veterans Cemetery, and Home Base Iowa. HSB556, regarding National Guard scholarship programs is working its way through the committee.

Legislative Calendar

Lots of folks have contacted me with great ideas for legislation. Unfortunately, this year the General Assembly is shorter than 2023.   We are in the 90th General Assembly, second session. The first session is 110 days, the second is 100 days. As a result, the calendar for legislation is quite condensed. The deadline for individual legislators to submit bills was Jan. 19.
If you are interested, please click the <u>link</u> to the Legislative Calendar. This will give you the funnel dates, and other important information.

A Founding Father's quote for today

"Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, because if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world."
-Daniel Webster

 It is an honor to serve a your Representative. Please stay in touch!

Go to <u>CindyGolding.com</u>   or

Email me at <u>cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov</u>   or

Call me at 319-360-1028

 Have a wonderful week!

 Cindy

I had the privilege to speak in the Rotunda addressing the dangers of the CO2 pipelines and the travesty of using eminent domain for private profit.

Jacob Bruns from Mt. Vernon sharing an idea for a bill from the Iowa Youth Congress.

Students from the Iowa Youth Congress visited the Capitol to learn more about the legislative process.

Copyright (C) 2024   CindyGolding.com   All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 191, Palo, IA 52324

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe