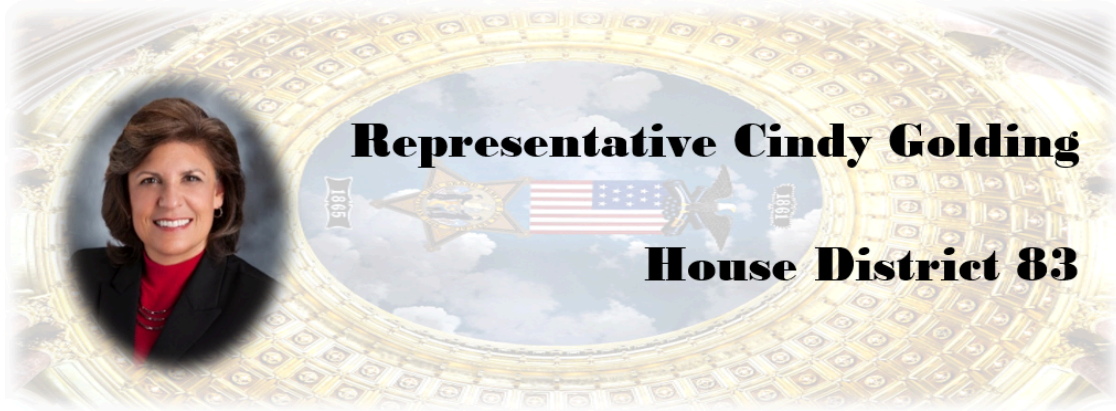


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## Under the Golden Dome

### Week #4 - 2024

Hello Friends,

February is here with all the hype of Groundhog's Day. There is much frivolity surrounding Punxsutawney Phil. So on Friday, February 2, Phil predicted an early spring for 2024.

Wonderful! But how accurate is he?

When you dig into the details, the nick-named "fat rat prognosticator" has a 39% accuracy rate. Over the past 10 years, only 3 out of 10 predictions have been correct. All the media blustering around Punxsutawney Phil demonstrates the saying "The Devil is in the details."

That's what I do with legislation - the Devil is truly in the details. I read EVERY bill before we vote, whether in committee or on the floor of the House. Many times you may hear about a particular bill from one of your favorite groups, but they generally present only a portion of the legislation. Headlines and sound bites are designed to move emotions, but, again, the Devil is in the fine points, the nuances of language, or the change of well-known definitions.

The Area Education Agency bill (AEA) is just one example so far this year. The goal to improve the services to Iowa's children with disabilities is a noble one, however, the proposed legislation misses the mark. There is room for improvement but we must be assured that the changes do not adversely affect the services.

**The House Education subcommittee tabled HSB542 for further investigation.** Our constituents spoke out clearly (and respectfully) in a nearly unanimous voice, that this bill was

I want to thank the many folks who took the time to write personal stories and share their experiences with an AEA. I have not had the time to respond to everyone, and try to get to those in my district first. Since we receive emails from around the country and even from foreign players, please include your address in any correspondence. that will assure that you will be put in the correct group.

## Other news from the Capitol

### **Local Government Committee**

The committee passed the following legislation for consideration of the full House chamber.

**HF 2079** will help connect public dollars to charitable services for the benefit of the local community. The bill specifies that the group receiving the funds cannot require participation in religious services, educational programs, or other participation to receive the benefit of the program. This will be another tool for local governments to utilize public dollars to help those in their communities who need assistance.

**HF 539** If enacted, it would require that before a parcel is split or consolidated that the parcels shall be free of unpaid taxes, special assessments, and drainage assessments. This will ensure the clean processing of these transactions, eliminating future problems that stemmed from a debt or assessment remaining on the original parcel.

### **Veterans Affairs Committee**

3 bills passed with bipartisan support. They can be considered by the entire House.

**HSB 556** will establish a national guard service continuing education support program towards credentials. This program is modeled after the existing national guard service scholarship program for higher education.

**HSB 620** transfers \$300,000 from the Lottery fund to provide each county with funds to be used for national training for veteran service officers.

**HF 2143** adds a member of the marine corps league to the membership of the commission of veterans affairs.

## A Founding Father's quote for today

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."*

*- Benjamin Franklin*

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

Go to [CindyGolding.com](http://CindyGolding.com) or  
Email me at [cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov) or  
Call me at 319-360-1028  
Have a wonderful week!

*Cindy*

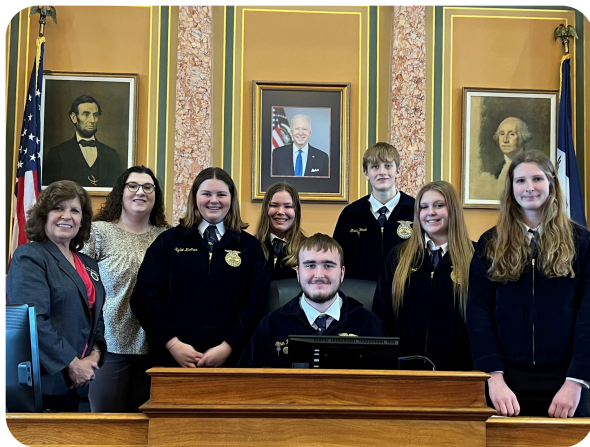


Arkansas Senator Jason Rapert from the National Association of Christian Lawmakers with Representatives Golding, Dieken, Osmundson, and Thompson.

Skyler Limkamin helped write the bill which will help our small towns reserve funds for major purchases such as fire trucks. We passed it on to the whole committee for consideration. This will be a win for our smaller communities and volunteer firefighters.



FFA students from Linn-Mar;  
 Students: Emily Ritze, Syamala Akula, Sahana Nagarajan, Blake Ritze, Terrell White, Evan Dunne, and Miya Schluemer.  
 Faculty: Barb Lemmer  
 I learned about each of their SAE projects and goals.



There were a lot of blue jackets in the Capitol on FFA Day. It's great to see students engaged and learning about our political process.  
 Springville and Central City FFA Students get to see a sub-committee in action.



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