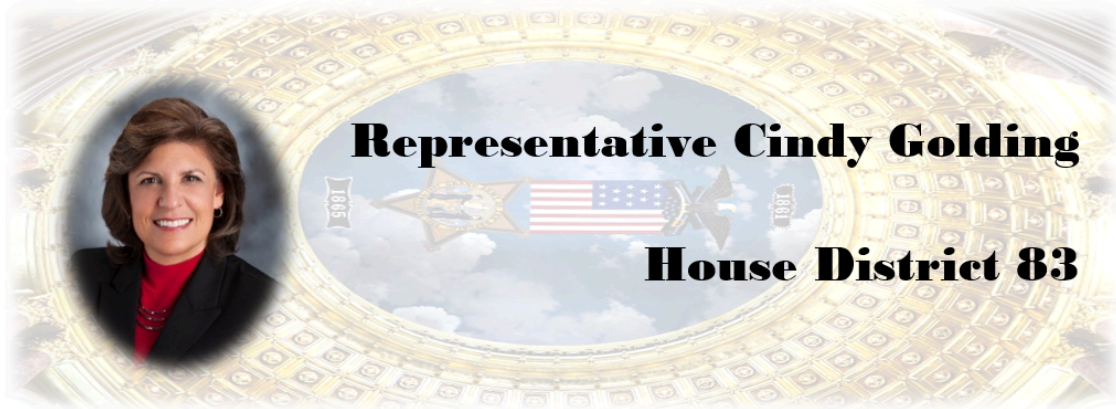


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Under the Golden Dome

Week #5 - 2024

Hello friends,

This past week was very busy for the Iowa House as we worked toward the first funnel week.

“Funnel Week” is a self-imposed deadline that requires a bill to be moved through a sub-committee and then be voted out of the full committee for it to be considered by the Senate. Of the hundreds of pieces of legislation put forward, only a fraction make it through the funnel. This rule applies to both the House and the Senate. Even as legislators, we won’t know what made it through until Feb. 16. The process can be frustrating, especially if the issue you are passionate about doesn’t make it through the funnel. The exception to this rule are Ways & Means or Appropriations bills.

Many of you have contacted me about the status of a particular bill. Legislation that has “HSB” are House Study Bills and will be making their way through the House committees. The same is true of “SSB” or Senate Study Bills making their way through the Senate. We don’t get to weigh in on the Senate bills unless they make through the funnel, are passed by the entire Senate, then assigned by House leadership to a House committee.

For those of you who are new to this process, I need to warn you. As a bill moves through sub-committee and then committee, it can be amended and change dramatically. It can even be amended when it comes to the floor for a vote. When asked if I will support any specific piece of legislation, I am always cautious. The title or the media presentation may be deceiving. I

Other news from the Capitol

State Government Committee

Our week was filled with “housekeeping” legislation. Last year the Governor initiated a major reorganization of the state government departments within the executive branch. The bloat in government agencies was creating duplicity in services and consuming tax dollars. Iowans were faced with conflicting rules and departments were required to make multiple, redundant reports. These activities were **draining tax dollars** and reducing efficiency of services available to Iowans.

Most of the bills we passed last week were removing or consolidating the “busy” work that had been required in the Iowa Code.

Local Government Committee

The bills going through Local Government serve as a strong reminder of the importance of local elections. Too many of the issues brought to our committee are local control issues.

When a group of citizens or businesses believe the local government has overstepped their authority, these folks reach out to the state to “fix” their problems. Instead of working to elect officials who reflect their perspectives, they ask the state to step in.

A serious issue in western Iowa may be very different from those in eastern Iowa. The problems in our larger cities are very different from those experienced in our smaller communities. When the state steps in and rules with a “one size fits all” approach, it may solve one problem but can create many more.

I have found that my service to my district lies in challenging the role of state mandates vs local control when these bills come through our committee. A few bills have passed but they have been amended to reduce potentially negative unintentional consequences.

A Founding Father’s quote for today

“There is no art which one government sooner learns of another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people”

- Adam Smith

How will you choose to get involved?

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

Go to CindyGolding.com or

Have a wonderful week!

Cindy



Iowa Occupational Therapy Association.



Evening event with Ames Chamber of Commerce.

Brooke and her son with the Bleeding Disorders of the Heartland. They shared their support for legislation making it's way through the system.





At Linn Mar Preschool, I met Lucy, She was thrilled to show me her art and explained to me how she knows her colors. Her friends were “discovering” treasures in the ice.



I enjoy meeting high school students who are participating in the programs which prepare them for a successful future. Family, Career & Community Leaders (FCCLA) and DECA are two such organizations. To be effective legislators, we need to learn about the programs supported by your tax dollars.



It was a special treat for me to have my grandson William lead the House Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance. William was celebrating his 13th birthday.



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