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## Healthcare Weekly Newsletter

*Friday, January 14, 2022*

### Week in Review

The Legislature convened Monday morning at 10:00am for the 89th General Assembly. This week consisted mostly of traditional, short organizing sessions in the House and Senate. House and Senate leaders from both parties provided opening remarks to highlight priorities of their respective caucuses for the Legislative session. Tax reform, workforce, and vaccine mandates were top priorities for the Republican caucus. Workforce, healthcare, and affordable childcare and housing options were priorities outlined by Democratic leadership. A significant number of bills were introduced in both chambers this week.

The Senate welcomed Senator David Rowley, who replaces Senator Whiting in Senate District 1. The Senate remains at 32 Republicans and 18 Democrats. The House added two new members, Rep. John Dunwell (R – Newton) and Rep. Mike Boussetot (R – Ankeny), with Republicans flipping a seat previously held by the Democrats making the split 60 republicans to 40 democrats.

Representative Prichard, who was first elected in a special election in 2013, announced that he will retire at the end of session. Prichard served as the House Minority Leader for three years. Representative Jennifer Konfrst of Windsor Heights was chosen by her caucus to serve as the new Minority Leader. Konfrst is the first woman to lead the Iowa House Democratic caucus. Republican leadership in the House and Senate remains unchanged with Senator Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) serving as Majority Leader, Senator Jake Chapman (R- Adel) serving as Senate President, Representative Pat Grassley (R – New Hartford) serving as House Speaker and Rep. Matt Windshitl (R – Missouri Valley) serving as Majority Leader.

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### Governor Reynolds Condition of the State

On Tuesday evening, Governor Reynolds gave her Condition of the State. She advocated for tax reform, addressing the state's workforce issues, and education transparency. She also highlighted previous accomplishments like broadband infrastructure, mental health funding, and the "Back the Blue" act.

Her 2022 priorities are outlined below:

#### **Cutting Taxes for All Iowans**

- Establishing a flat 4% individual income tax rate, further reducing the individual income tax for all taxpaying Iowans.
- Eliminating retirement income tax.
- Exempting net capital gains on sale of employee-awarded capital stock.
- Reforming Iowa's corporate income tax

### **Building Iowa's Health Care Workforce**

- **Loan Repayment Programs** - Strengthening existing programs that recruit new health care providers to rural communities.
  - **Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program**
    - Increase program funding from \$1.75 million to \$4 million.
    - Expand eligibility to physicians who complete residencies out-of-state.
    - Include neurology on the list of eligible physician specialties.
    - Allow part-time practice (70%) in a rural area to satisfy the 5-year rural practice requirement for loan repayment.
  - **Health Care Loan Repayment Program**
    - Increase program funding from \$250,000 to \$1 million.
    - Expand eligibility to part-time nurse educators who also practice nursing in a health care facility.
    - Allow eligible providers who do not have student loan debt to qualify for an annual award in lieu of loan repayment for up to five years in exchange for practicing in rural Iowa.
  - **Health Professional Recruitment Program**
    - Include RNs and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) in professions eligible for the program.
- **Rural Psychiatry Residency Program** - Investing in residency programs that increase mental health specialists.
  - Provide \$200,000 to expand the program by an additional two residency slots for a total of eight.
- **High School Registered Apprenticeship Program** - Developing high school Registered Apprentice Programs that create health care career pathways for Iowa's youth.
  - **Establish the Iowa Health Careers Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program.**
    - Grants will be awarded to a minimum of five applicant communities to start a new high school Registered Apprenticeship Program for health care careers or expand an existing program.
    - Awardees will receive supplemental assistance from the state to acquire virtual reality patient care simulation software and hardware to further enhance students' educational and practical experience, and job readiness.
- **Tort Reform** - Limiting non-economic damages in tort litigation.
  - Limit liability by establishing hard caps on non-economic damages in cases of medical malpractice and trucking accidents.

### **Making Iowa an Employment Destination**

- Reforming the state's unemployment system to re-employ out-of-work Iowans sooner.
- Retaining Iowa's law enforcement officers and recruiting others to our state.
- Recruiting military veterans to civilian careers in Iowa.
- Easing licensure requirements that delay employment.
- Limiting non-economic damages in tort litigation.
- Standardizing building codes to promote construction of attainable housing and child care facilities.

### **Improving Access to Child Care**

- Implement findings from the Child Care Task Force, that was established by Executive Order in March 2021.
- Invest more than \$480 million of state and federal funds to address the childcare crisis in Iowa.

### **Preparing Students for the Workforce**

- Further expanding and integrating work-based learning (WBL) programs into Iowa schools.
- By 2023, 75% of Iowa school districts will have one or more school-business partnerships; and
- By 2024, all high school students will participate in at least one WBL experience.
- Growing and retaining Iowa's education workforce.

### **Providing Educational Choice and Transparency for Iowa Families**

- Allowing a portion of Iowa's per pupil educational funds to follow eligible students to private schools or other educational programs.
- Requiring all public schools to publish course syllabuses, materials and available library books online.
- Requiring all high school students to pass the Civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Service Test to graduate from high school.
- Eliminating the need for AEA approval to place students receiving special education services in competent private instruction.
- Eliminating the requirement for PK-12 school librarians to have a Master's degree.

### **Growing the Fuels of the Future**

- All retailers with compatible infrastructure must offer E-15 by January 1, 2026.
- Any newly installed or upgraded fuel infrastructure must be E-85 or B-20 compatible.
- Invest \$10 million in state funding each year for five years in the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program, on top of the nearly \$50 million in state and federal funds already invested.
- Optimize and extend fuel retailer tax credits to incentivize higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel.
- Codify the Governor's 2019 Executive Order which requires state vehicles with diesel engines to be B-20 biodiesel compatible.
- Require the Iowa Department of Administrative Services to report annually on biofuel usage by the state's vehicle fleet.
- The bill will remain revenue neutral, while increasing savings to the Road Use Tax Fund and imposing no additional cost for Iowans.

## House Human Resources Committee Meeting with DHS Director Kelly Garcia

On Tuesday, Department of Human Resource Director, Kelly Garcia, presented to the House Human Resource Committee on the progress of integrating the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Public Health.

- Director Garcia explained the department's goals/priorities for the current stage of integration process and how they are working between both IDPH and DHS to meet those goals. So far, they are on track with their targets.
- Priorities highlighted in the meeting include:
  - Opportunities to better leverage funding sources and the ability to identify the potential for expanded funding sources.
  - Break down siloes to create a unified, integrated behavioral health system.
  - Better access to services and easier navigation of the system for the lowans they serve (IT systems).
  - Make it more user friendly for lowans to apply for all programs across the two departments, and at the state, local, and federal level.

### In the News

- [Supreme Court blocks Biden Covid vaccine mandate for businesses, allows health-care worker rule](#)
- [Iowa Elected Officials Respond to SCOTUS Ruling on Biden Vaccine Mandate](#)
- [National Guard COVID vaccine mandate creating 'dilemmas' in Iowa troops](#)
- [Lawmakers Say Bills Targeting Vaccine Mandates Should Wait on the Court](#)
- [Here's what Iowa legislative leaders said on opening day of the 2022 legislature](#)
- [Iowa politicians ponder how to reverse healthcare worker shortage as pandemic continues](#)

## Senate Schedule Week 2, January 17-21, 2022

### IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 2, January 17-21, 2022

\*\*\*Subject to Change\*\*\*

Monday, January 17	Tuesday, January 18	Wednesday, January 19	Thursday, January 20	Friday, January 21
NO SESSION IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY	10:00 SESSION  11:00 Ntl. Resources RM 116	9:00 SESSION  10:00 Local Govt. RM 116  11:00 Hmn. Res. RM 116	9:00 SESSION  10:00 Agriculture RM 116  11:00 State Govt. RM 116	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
	1:00 Commerce RM 116  2:00 Ethics RM 116  3:00 Judiciary RM 116	1:00 Education RM 116  2:00 Labor/Bus. RM 116  3:00 Transportation RM 116		

# House Schedule Week 2, January 17-21, 2022

House of Representatives Schedule for *Week 2, January 17 - 21, 2022*  
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, January 17	Tuesday, January 18	Wednesday, January 19	Thursday, January 20	Friday, January 21
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY No Session	8:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee Space with Clerk's office  10:00 SESSION  10:30 Veterans Affairs RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Information Technology RM 304	7:30 Subcommittee Block 8:30 SESSION 9:00 Budget Subs Admin/Reg Rm 19 Ag Rm 304 Eco Devo Rm 103 Education Rm 102 10:00 Budget Subs Justice Rm 19 Trans/Infra/Caps Rm 102 11:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	7:30 Subcommittee Block  8:30 SESSION  9:00 Public Safety RM 19 State Government RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult 10:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 11:00 Subcommittee Block	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
	12:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee Space with Clerk's office 2:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee Space with Clerk's Office	12:00 Subcommittee Block 2:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 5:00 Subcommittee Block	12:00 Environmental Protection RM 19 1:00 Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber Information Technology RM 304 2:00 Subcommittee Block	

The Legislative Information Office provides a complete list of committee meetings on the web at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov>  
\*\*\*Subject to Change\*\*\*

The Senate schedule can also be found [here](#).  
The House schedule can also be found [here](#).

The Iowa Cornerstone Team



Matt Hinch | Lillie Brady | David Adelman | Frank Chiodo | Sara Allen

## 2022 Session Timeline

The full 2022 legislative calendar can be found [here](#).  
Below are the key dates of interest.

**JANUARY 10** – First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)

**JANUARY 11** - Governors Condition of the State Address

**FEBRUARY 18** – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (First Funnel)

**MARCH 18** – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Second Funnel)

**APRIL 19** – 100th calendar day of the session (Per diem expenses end)

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*Please don't hesitate to reach out  
to our team with any comments,  
questions, or concerns.*



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