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Cornerstone Iowa Health Newsletter

Friday, February 9, 2024

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Week in Review

The last week before funnel week has come to an end! With the legislative funnel right around the corner, legislators were very busy this week. Over 150 bill subcommittee meetings were held, and standing committees passed 128 bills through. Next week's action will give us a much clearer picture of the legislature's true priorities this year, as legislators work hard to push their priorities through committee and leave other bills behind. A large number of new bills were introduced this week, giving them a short turnaround time if they are to survive the funnel. Even bills introduced next week still have a chance though; the legislative process can move fast if there is enough pressure.

Three resolutions were adopted on the House floor this week, including [HR 105](#), which designates November 2024 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month; [HR 106](#), which designates February 2024 as Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month; and [HR 107](#), which recognizes the Lunar New Year.

However, much of the tax reform package is dependent on the total budget passed. The House and Senate have yet to agree on a supplemental state aid percentage, as well as several education proposals that would require a significant budget investment.

Bills of Interest This Week

Discussion at the capitol this week involved multiple health-related bills. The first is the Governor's maternal health bill, [HSB 643](#) in the House and [SF 2251](#) in the Senate. The bill extends postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months. It also scales back eligibility criteria for Medicaid coverage for pregnant women from 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 215% of the FPL. Discussion centered around what percentage of the FPL is appropriate for eligibility. HSB 643 passed through a bill subcommittee meeting this week, and SF 2251 was approved by committee.

[HF 2210](#), which relates to clinical privileges and health-related profession licenses, moved quickly this week. A bill subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday, and the bill passed through House State Government unanimously on Wednesday. The bill would prohibit questions regarding a past history or diagnosis of mental illness, substance use disorders, or other physical or behavioral health conditions from being asked on applications for clinical privileges at hospitals or rural emergency hospitals and by licensing boards for health-related professions. However, questions could be asked about conditions that are not being appropriately treated and impair or adversely affect the individual's ability to practice.

Another bill of interest is [HSB 501](#), which passed out of House Health and Human Services last week and was renumbered as [HF 2268](#). The bill creates a 24-month look back for post-payment review of Medicaid provider claims. There had been discussion on amending the bill to include new requirements for prior authorization policies. This would entail reviewing prior authorizations and removing those which they have approved 80% of in the past year. However, this amendment did not advance in full committee.

Additionally, the Governor released two health-related proposals this week. The first ([SSB 3146](#) and [HSB 653](#)) relates to Iowa's behavioral health system. It transitions behavioral health services from a mental health and disabilities services system to a behavioral health services system (BHSS). The bill transfers disability services to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The bill also establishes a behavioral health fund, from which moneys are appropriated to the HHS to implement and administer the BHSS. The bill provides for appropriations into the fund starting in FY 2025. For more information about this proposed behavioral health system alignment, see the HHS's [presentation](#) on this topic.

The Governor also released [HSB 689](#) this week, which makes appropriations from the Opioid Settlement Fund to the HHS, the Iowa Finance Authority, and Iowa Workforce Development for specified opioid prevention, treatment, recovery, and infrastructure activities.

Bill subcommittee movement

[HSB 623](#) - State-designated health data utility (HDU)

- Requires the designated nonprofit entity that administers the Iowa health information network to also administer the state-designated HDU.
- Provides principles, intent, and infrastructure requirements for the state-designated HDU.
- Requires certain entities to participate in the state-designated HDU by specific dates.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Monday. Passed on to House Health and Human Services.

[HF 2017](#) - Advanced nurse practitioner preceptor tax credit

- Creates an advanced nurse practitioner preceptor tax credit equal to \$500 per clinical preceptorship where at least 100 hours of clinical learning experience is provided, not to exceed \$2,000 in total.
- Provides for eligibility and documentation requirements for the preceptor.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday. Passed on to House Ways and Means.

Standing committee movement

See past newsletters ([Feb. 2](#), [Jan. 26](#), & [Jan. 19](#)) for descriptions of some of the bills below.

[HSB 641](#) - Prior authorizations and exemptions

- Requires a utilization review organization to respond to a request for prior authorization from a health care provider within a certain amount of time based on various factors.
- Requires a utilization review organization to annually review all health care services for which authorization is required and to eliminate authorization requirements for health care services for which authorization requests are so routinely approved that the authorization requirement is not justified.
- Requires all health carriers that deliver, issue for delivery, continue, or renew a health benefit plan in Iowa on or after January 1, 2025, to implement a pilot program that exempts a subset of participating providers from certain authorization requirements.

Latest Action: Passed through House Commerce with an amendment 22 to 0 on Thursday.

[HF 2252](#) - Accessible prescription-related measures

- Requires the Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to ensure that a person who is blind, has a visual impairment, or otherwise has a print disability has

Latest Action: Passed through House Commerce 22 to 0 on Thursday.

[HF 2199](#) - Health care employment agencies

Latest Action: Passed through House Health and Human Services with an amendment 21 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HSB 638](#) - Contracts and payments for dental care service plans

Latest Action: Passed through House Commerce with an amendment 23 to 0 on Tuesday. A bill subcommittee meeting for the companion bill, [SSB 3137](#), was held in the Senate on Thursday and passed on to Senate Commerce.

[HF 2013](#) - Nursing home administrator provisional license

Latest Action: Passed out of House State Government 23 to 0 on Wednesday.

[SSB 3114](#) - More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS) program

Latest Action: Passed out of Senate Health and Human Services 9 to 5 on Wednesday.

HHS Presentation on Budget Restructure

On Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [presented](#) to the House Health and Human Services budget subcommittee on the restructuring of the HHS budget based on HHS's new organizational structure. As part of this restructure, the HHS has looked at aligning appropriations, streamlining language, removing administrative burdens, and providing more transparency. The HHS will have recommendations on language that is historically included in the budget bill, and various appropriations that could be combined. The HHS will also recommend clean up of the provider rate section of the budget bill.

New Opioid Settlement

The Attorney General announced this week that Iowa will receive \$2.5 million from a new opioid settlement with Publicis. The Publicis settlement was with a coalition of all U.S. states, territories, and DC, and the total settlement amounts to \$350 million. The settlement moneys are to be used for supporting opioid treatment, recovery, and prevention efforts. For more information, see [here](#).

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Election Outlook

FEATURING

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JASON THIELMAN



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

3:00 - 3:30 PM EST

[RSVP HERE](#)

Join Cornerstone for an election outlook briefing on February 27!

This virtual briefing is part of a series featuring senior political operatives from both parties to share insights on the 2024 election. To register, please RSVP [here](#). Once RSVP'd, you will receive a calendar invite with further instructions on joining the briefing.

Upcoming Town Halls

Representative Heather Matson

February 9 at 9:00am
Main Street Cafe, 2510 SW White Birch
Drive, Ankeny

Representatives Molly Buck and Heather Matson

February 9 at 12:00pm
Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, 1631 SW
Main Street #204/205, Ankeny

Representative Dave Sieck

February 10 at 8:00am
Emerson Community Building, 711 Morton
Ave, Emerson

Representative John Wills

February 10 at 8:30am
Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce, 1121
Broadway St, Emmetsburg

Representative Jeff Shipley

February 16 at 8:00am
Mount Pleasant Chamber

Representative Taylor Collins

February 16 at 8:00am
Location TBD

Representative Heather Matson

February 16 at 9:00am
Main Street Cafe, 2510 SW White Birch
Drive, Ankeny

Representative Sue Cahill

Iowa Veterans Home Listening Post
February 16 at 9:30am
Malloy Building, 309 Summit St.,
Marshalltown

Representative Craig Johnson

Farm Bureau in Arlington

Representative Ray Sorensen

February 10 at 9:30am
Adair Community Center

Representative Megan Jones

February 10 at 10:00am
Kings Pointe in Storm Lake

Representative Monica Kurth

February 10 at 10:00am
Eastern Iowa College, Belmont Campus, 500
Belmont Rd, Riverdale

Representative Ray Sorensen

February 10 at 11:30am
Winterset Farm Bureau Office

Representative Michael Bergan

Farm Bureau Legislative Forum
February 10 at 11:30am
Howard County Farm Bureau Office, Cresco

Representative Anne Osmundson

Farm Bureau Legislative Forum
February 10 at 11:30am
Monona Community Center, Monona

Representative Elizabeth Wilson

February 11 at 8:30am
Uptown Coffee, 760 11th St Suite A, Marion

Representative Austin Baeth

February 12 at 8:00pm
Lua Brewing, 1525 High St, Des Moines

Representative Molly Buck

February 13 at 10:00am
Porch Light Coffee, 417 SW 3rd St, Ankeny

Representatives Jerome Amos, Bob Kressig, and Timi Brown-Powers

Education Town Hall
February 16 at 4:30pm
Hawkeye College Van G. Miller Facility, 120
Jefferson St., Waterloo

Representative Jeff Shipley

February 17 at 7:30am
Fairfield Chamber

Representative Helena Hayes

February 17 at 7:30am
Fairfield Arts and Convention Center, 200 N.
Main Street, Fairfield

Representatives Steve Holt and Brian Best

February 17 at 10:00am
Shelby County Farm Bureau, 908 6th Street,
Harlan

Representatives Eric Gjerde, Tracy Ehlert, Art Staed, Sami Scheetz, and Elizabeth Wilson

League of Women Voters
February 17 at 10:00am
Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth
Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

Representative John Wills

February 17
Location TBD

Representative Austin Baeth

February 19 at 8:00pm
Lua Brewing, 1525 High St., Des Moines

In the News

- [Radio Iowa: French firm to pay Iowa \\$2.5 million as part of national opioid settlement.](#)
- [Radio Iowa: Senate GOP leader optimistic lawmakers can agree on some AEA changes.](#)
- [Iowa Public Radio: Reynolds' bill to extend postpartum Medicaid and tighten income limits advances.](#)
- [KCCI: Advocates gather at Iowa Capitol to call for increased accessibility for cancer tests.](#)
- [The Gazette: Capitol Notebook: Stronger interlock requirements proposed to address drunken driving in Iowa.](#)
- [The Gazette: Iowa's rising cancer rate spurs multiple legislative bills.](#)
- [Iowa Capital Dispatch: Bill would cap payments from nursing homes and hospitals to temp agencies.](#)

Senate Week 6 Schedule

Monday, February 12	Tuesday, February 13	Wednesday, February 14	Thursday, February 15	Friday, February 16
11:00 International Relations RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Local Government RM 116 11:00 Natural Resources and Environment RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Health and Human Services RM 116 11:00 Commerce RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Agriculture RM 116	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Agriculture RM 116 3:00 Transportation RM 116	1:00 Veterans Affairs RM 116 2:00 Technology RM 116 3:00 Judiciary RM 116	1:00 Workforce RM 116 2:00 State Government RM 116 3:00 Education RM 116		On All committees Call

House Week 6 Schedule

Monday, February 12	Tuesday, February 13	Wednesday, February 14	Thursday, February 15	Friday, February 16
11:00 International Relations Room 116	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor and Workforce RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth and Technology RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 10:30 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Health and Human Services RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor and Workforce RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 10:30 Public Safety RM 19 State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	Note: All Policy Committees On-Call
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Health and Human Services RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Budget Sub Block HHS Budget Rm 103 Education Rm 304 Admin & Reg Rm 19 5:00 Public Hearing RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth and Technology RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:30 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:00 Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:30 Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	Note: Policy subcommittee times will be available: 1 hour prior to gavel-in, from noon to 1pm, and for one hour following the conclusion of the last policy committee meeting each day

2024 Session Timeline

The full 2024 legislative calendar can be found [here](#). Below are key dates of interest.

JANUARY 8 – First day of session.

JANUARY 9 – The Governor's Condition of the State address. Governor Reynolds will discuss her budget and policy priorities.

FEBRUARY 16 – *First Funnel*. Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House

reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees.

APRIL 16 – 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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Cornerstone is a full-service, bipartisan consulting firm specializing in federal and state government relations, public affairs and strategic communications, and advisory services.

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