



## Cornerstone Iowa Health Update

### 2026 Legislative Session: Week Two

**Friday, January 23, 2026**



*We're highlighting the top news this week.*

#### **Week in Review**

After observing MLK, Jr. Day on Monday, the Legislature gaveled back in on Tuesday morning and quickly got to work, continuing their momentum from last week. In addition to holding over 120 bill subcommittee meetings throughout the week, the House and Senate also passed 17 bills through standing committees.

On Wednesday, the House held the first floor debate of session to pass through one of their priority bills, [HF 2104](#), which prohibits the use of eminent domain for pipelines transporting carbon oxide. This was relatively early in session to see floor debate, which reflects the urgency many legislators feel about addressing eminent domain for pipelines, an issue that has remained unresolved for several years. The bill passed the House with 64 yeas, 28 nays, and 8 legislators not voting. The vote was not along party lines, as twenty Democrats and eight Republicans voted against the bill. This vote showcases the different viewpoints at the statehouse on this issue. Senate Republicans released their

own eminent domain proposal this week, [SF 2067](#), which would create a new voluntary easement corridor.

Also of note this week, House Republicans released the details of their property tax plan. Their bill, [HSB 596](#), seeks to provide property tax relief by limiting revenue growth to 2% plus new construction, and creating a \$25,000 property tax exemption for homeowners. We have now seen different property tax reform proposals from the Governor, Senate Republicans, House Republicans, and House Democrats.

After a fast-paced beginning of the week, the capitol slowed down a bit on Thursday, with legislative work wrapping up by the early afternoon. Throughout the week, legislators introduced over 140 bills, bringing the total number of bills introduced this session to more than 400. Legislative work will pick back up on Monday, when both chambers are set to gavel in at 1:00PM.

## **Committee Presentations**

The Health and Human Services committees held presentations this week to update legislators on topics important to the committee.

In Senate Health and Human Services, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented on a study they recently completed related to the effectiveness of the certificate of need (CON) process. The HHS's full study can be found [here](#). The findings of the study include:

- The statutory language surrounding CON is unclear, which impacts the accuracy and consistency of the CON process.
- There is some evidence that repealing CON requirements would improve population outcomes, but the evidence fails to consider various factors and imposes important limitations.
- There are significant economic costs associated with administering the CON process for both state government and the healthcare system.
- HHS does not have access to enough data to complete a full, comprehensive study.

The HHS recommended three different options for how to proceed: 1) clarifying statutory language and making various process improvements, 2) reducing the regulatory burden, or 3) fully repealing the CON statute.

In House Health and Human Services, there was a presentation on cancer screening and a recent Cook County initiative addressing this. The presenters emphasized the importance of early detection through cancer screening. They also noted that screening uninsured individuals and detecting cancer early reduces costs to the state. Overall, the goal of Cook County's initiative was to educate Iowans on when and how to get screened, while also making screening affordable and accessible.

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## In the News

*Read more about what's making headlines across the state.*

- [Radio Iowa: Iowa's governor says it's too early to predict property tax debate outcome.](#)
- [The Gazette: Six takeaways from the start of the 2026 Iowa legislative session.](#)
- [Radio Iowa: Iowa community colleges make pitch for four-year degrees.](#)
- [Radio Iowa: Iowa Senate's GOP leader proposes two pipeline related bills.](#)
- [We Are Iowa: Cancer rates in Polk County far exceed national average, town hall explores possible solutions.](#)
- [Iowa Capital Dispatch: House GOP property tax bill released with 2% revenue cap.](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Democrat holds huge fundraising lead in 2026 Iowa governor's race.](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Iowa Republicans have 3 plans to cut property taxes. How they compare.](#)
- [Iowa Capital Dispatch: Iowa House sends CO2 eminent domain ban to Senate.](#)



*Learn about some of the legislation moving this week.*

### **Notable Bill Movement**

We saw initial action on the following bills this week, which were each considered in subcommittee and passed on to the full committee.

#### **HSB 546 - Continuing Education Requirements**

- Prohibits licensing boards from requiring licensees to obtain continuing education credits that are not directly related to the practice of the licensed profession.

#### **HF 2072 - UIHC Noncompete Clauses**

- Requires the Board of Regents to develop a policy prohibiting the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) from including a noncompete clause in any contract with a physician.

#### **HF 2056 - Access to Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin**

- Requires the Iowa Department of Public Health to establish a standing order authorizing a pharmacist to dispense hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin to patients who are aged 18+.



*With the 2026 Legislative Session now officially underway, we're looking ahead to what the next few weeks may hold.*

## Senate Week 3 Schedule

Monday, January 26	Tuesday, January 27	Wednesday, January 28	Thursday, January 29	Friday, January 30
	9:00 SESSION  10:00 Transportation RM 116  11:00 Health and Human Services RM 116	9:00 SESSION  10:00 Technology RM 116  11:00 State Government RM 116	9:00 SESSION  10:00 Workforce RM 116	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION  2:00 Natural Resources and Environment RM 116  3:00 Judiciary RM 116		1:00 Commerce RM 116  2:00 Local Government RM 116  3:00 Education RM 116		All Committees on Call

## House Week 3 Schedule

Monday, January 26	Tuesday, January 27	Wednesday, January 28	Thursday, January 29	Friday, January 30
All Committees On Call	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth and Technology RM 102 State Government RM 103	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Environmental Protection RM 19  10:30 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor and Workforce RM 102 Judiciary RM 103	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Budget Sub Block 1 Admin and Reg Rm 19 Ag & Nat Res Rm 102 Eco Devo Rm 103 Fed & Other Rm 304  10:00 Budget Sub Block 2 Justice Rm 19 RIIF Rm 102 HHS Rm 103 Education Rm 304  11:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102 Health and Human Services RM 103	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Budget Sub Block 1 Admin & Reg Rm 19 Ag & Nat Res Rm 102 Eco Devo Rm 103 Fed & Other Rm 304 3:00 Budget Sub Block 2 Justice Rm 19 RIIF Rm 102 HHS Rm 103 Education Rm 304 4:00 Judiciary RM 103		1:00 Education RM 102 Commerce RM 103  2:30 Higher Education RM 19 Veterans Affairs RM 102 Transportation RM 103		

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## **Upcoming Town Halls**

*See what legislative town halls are happening in the next two weeks.*

### **Waterloo Legislative Forum**

Friday, January 23 at 5:00PM

Hawkeye Community College, Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center (120 Jefferson St, Waterloo, IA)

### **Mahaska County Coffee & Conversation**

With Sen. Ken Rozenboom, Sen. Adrian Dickey, Rep. Helena Hayes, and Rep. Barb Kniff-McCulla

Saturday, January 24 at 8:30AM

Smokey Row Coffee (109 S Market St, Oskaloosa, IA)

### **Carrol County Legislative Forum**

Saturday, January 24 at 10:00AM

St. Anthony Regional Hospital (311 S Clark St, Carroll, IA)

### **Mills County Legislative Forum**

Saturday, January 31 at 8:00AM

Glenwood City Hall (5 North Vine St, Glenwood, IA)

### **Greene Town Hall**

With Sen. Sandy Salmon

Saturday, January 31 at 9:00AM

Greene Public Library (231 W Traer St, Greene, IA)

### **Spencer Eggs & Issues Legislative Forum**

With Rep. Megan Jones

Saturday, January 31 at 9:00AM

Spencer City Hall, Council Chambers (101 West 5th Street, Spencer, IA)

### **Urbandale Talk with Officials Forum**

With Rep. Larry McBurney

Saturday, January 31 at 10:30AM

Aisha R. Syed Board Room, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce Office (2830 100th St, Ste 110, Urbandale, IA)

### **New Hampton Town Hall**

With Sen. Sandy Salmon

Saturday, January 31 at 11:00AM

New Hampton Public Library (20 W Spring St, New Hampton, IA)

### **Des Moines Legislative Forum**

With Rep. Megan Srinivas, Rep. Brian Meyer, and Sen. Tony Bisignano

Monday, February 2 at 11:00AM

DMARC, Community Room (100 Army Post Rd, Des Moines, IA)

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### **Dates of Interest**

*Check out our running list of key upcoming dates.*

**February 20, 2026** – 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 committees.*

**March 2026** - March REC.

**March 20, 2026** - Second Funnel. *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.*

**April 21, 2026** - 100th calendar day of the session. *Per diem expenses end.*

**June 2, 2026** - Primary election.

**July 1, 2026** - FY 2027 begins. Standard effective date for bills.

**November 3, 2026** - General election.

The full 2026 Legislative Session schedule can be accessed [here](#).

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**MEET OUR TEAM**

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any comments, questions, or concerns. If there is someone on your team who would like to receive these updates but isn't currently, please email Isabel Biehl to get them added.

**Connect with Cornerstone**

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