2021 Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association
Advocacy Toolkit

DAY OFF THE HILL: March 11, 2021
Morning emails to legislators with email templates from IMHCA

9:00 am  Introductions
9:15 am  Renee Schulte, LMHC,
IMHCA Lobbyist speaks - current legislation
10:00 am  Guest Speakers and Legislators
Post card writing activity planned as well.
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Want to find out more about how you can take part in IMHCA’s advocacy efforts? Contact IMHCA’s Government Relations Committee for more information! Email: government@IMHCA.net

IMHCA Website: www.imhca.net
Address: PO Box 8223, Des Moines, Iowa. 50310
Special thanks to IMHCA’s lobbyist, Renee Schulte for helping to organize today’s event and for protecting the legislative and policy interests of mental health providers across the state.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
GET TO KNOW IMHCA

About Us
The Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association (IMHCA) is a chapter of the American Mental Health Association (AMHCA). IMHCA is the only organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the professional needs of mental health counselors in Iowa. Since founded we have worked to promote quality mental health services for all people, distinguish the identity of the profession, and influence public policy to maintain standards of care and opportunities in line with our professional ethics and values. We accomplish these goals by working with other professional organizations, the state legislature, state regulatory agencies, and clients to promote quality in mental health counseling practices.

The Purpose of IMHCA

Continuing Education
• Providing mental health counselors with continuing education opportunities to update and enhance their competencies

Professional Support
• Providing a public forum and network throughout Iowa for counselors to address the social and emotional needs of their clients

Promote the Profession
• Promoting high standards of professional commitment to persons who seek mental health counseling services in Iowa
• Promoting attainable licensure and certification for counselors on state and national levels
• Increasing awareness of the role and function of mental health counseling and counseling services to the public
• Providing an alliance and increase advocacy for the profession by creating networks with counselors in other specialties and other organizations
• Supporting research into mental health concerns, counseling interventions, and their effectiveness
IMHCA Board Members

President  Courtney Ackerson, 2019-2021
Past President  Kacey Peterson, 2019-2021
President-Elect  Board Position Open! 2019-2021
Treasurer  Kristten Buttermore, 2019-2023
Secretary  Kenya Rocha, 2019-2023
Public Policy Chair  Board Position Open!
Public Policy Co-Chair  Board Position Open!
Membership Chair  Dree LaToure, 2017-2021
Networking & Communications Chair  Kyla Loucks, 2017-2021
Conference Committee Chair  Rebecca Spiess, 2020-2022
Continuing Education Chair  Board Position Open! 2019-2021
Member-at-Large  Erin Carter, 2019-2021
Member-at-Large  Nicole Scheidel, 2020-2022
Student Representative  Sheena Bahls, 2019-2021
Student Representative  Emma Hendricks, 2019-2021
Website Coordinator  Jason Stark, 2017-2021
## 2021 Iowa Session Leaders:

### Senate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jake Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Pro Tempore</td>
<td>Brad Zaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Leader</td>
<td>Jack Whitver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Whip</td>
<td>Amy Sinclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Chris Cournoyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Carrie Koelker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Mark S. Lofgren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Zach Whiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Leader</td>
<td>Zach Wahls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Whip</td>
<td>Amanda Ragan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Democratic Leader</td>
<td>Nate Boulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Democratic Leader</td>
<td>William A. Dotzler Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Democratic Leader</td>
<td>Pam Jochum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Democratic Leader</td>
<td>Herman C. Quirmbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Democratic Leader</td>
<td>Jackie Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Pat Grassley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Pro Tempore</td>
<td>John H. Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Leader</td>
<td>Matt W. Windschitl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority Whip</td>
<td>Mike Sexton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Cecil Dolecheck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Joe Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Brent Siegrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Majority Leader</td>
<td>Jon Thorup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Leader</td>
<td>Todd Prichard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Whip</td>
<td>Jennifer Konfrst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Minority Leader</td>
<td>Eric Gjerde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Minority Leader</td>
<td>Lindsay James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Minority Leader</td>
<td>Charlie McConkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Minority Leader</td>
<td>Brian Meyer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Standing Committees:

**Senate**
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Commerce
- Education
- Ethics
- Government Oversight
- Human Resources
- Judiciary
- Labor and Business Relations
- Local Government
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Rules and Administration
- State Government
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs
- Ways and Means

**House**
- Administration and Rules
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Commerce
- Economic Growth
- Education
- Environmental Protection
- Ethics
- Government Oversight
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Judiciary
- Labor
- Local Government
- Natural Resources
- Public Safety
- State Government
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs
- Ways and Means

**Appropriations**
- Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee
- Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
- Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
- Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee
- Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee
- Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee
# 89th Iowa General Assembly

## 2021 Iowa Legislative Session Timetable*

*Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change*

*See SCR 5, SR 3, and HR 11 (2019)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY 11</strong></td>
<td>First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 12</strong></td>
<td>Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill and joint resolution drafts to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH 5</strong></td>
<td>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 (Joint Rule 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH 15 - 19</strong></td>
<td>Senate considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>House considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH 22 - APRIL 2</strong></td>
<td>Debate not limited by rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 2</strong></td>
<td>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 (Joint Rule 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 5 - 9</strong></td>
<td>Senate considers only House bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>House considers only Senate bills, joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 12</strong> (Beginning of the 14th week)</td>
<td>Only the following bills and resolutions are eligible for consideration: (Joint Rule 20):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bills passed by both Houses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Appropriations Bills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Ways and Means Bills</td>
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<td>- Government Oversight Bills</td>
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<td>- Legalizing Acts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules (Iowa Code Sec. 17A.9(9))</td>
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<td>- Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Conference Committee Reports</td>
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<td>- Companion Bills sponsored by Senate and House Majority Leaders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Concurrent or Simple Resolutions</td>
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<td>- Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bills on the Veto Calendar (Joint Rule 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Unfinished Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 12</strong> (Beginning of the 14th week)</td>
<td>Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(House Rule 31.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 30</strong></td>
<td>110th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - Iowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The March 5 and April 2 committee deadlines do not apply to Appropriations Bills, Ways and Means Bills, Government Oversight Bills, Legalizing Acts, Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills, Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules (Iowa Code Sec. 17A.9(9)), Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House, Conference Committee Reports, Companion Bills sponsored by the Majority Leaders of both Houses after consultation with the respective Minority Leaders, Concurrent or Simple Resolutions, and Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules. Legislative Information Office: 01/28/2020**
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK 8 – FUNNEL WEEK DEAD OR ALIVE

1. Bills of the week

A. SF 524-Psychiatric Bed Tracking (Formerly SSB 1227):
   i. This bill establishes an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system study committee. DHS to convene a study committed during the interim to examine issues and develop policy recommendations relating to improvement to the inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system including but not limited to expanding the acuity of disabilities a hospital or facility is able to accept in its program to include but not be limited to persons with certain mental disabilities, behavioral disabilities, and sexually or physically aggressive behaviors. - Support

B. SF 528-Mental Illness Reports
   i. This bill relates to reports prepared by a chief medical officer, licensed physician, or a mental health professional concerning the hospitalization of a person with a mental illness - Support

2. Need to know – Surviving the Funnel: Bills that are still alive after the first funnel
   i. HF 269: Out-of-State Telehealth
   ii. HF 294: Mental Health Telehealth Parity
   iii. HF 431 Audio Only Telehealth
   iv. HF 446: Reimbursement for SUD
   v. HF 479: IMD Waiver
   vi. HF 706: Reimbursement $ Parity
   vii. HF 731: Outside Health Carriers
   viii. HF 736: Limitations of Medicaid
   ix. HJR 11: Amendment to the Constitution of the State of IA
   x. HSB 225 Medicaid Reimbursement
   xi. SF 354: Continuing Education Requirements
   xii. SF 389: Public Assistance Program Oversight
   xiii. SF 424: Apprenticeship
   xiv. SF 461: Voting Members of Governing Board
   xv. SF 463: Occupational Therapy Licensure
   xvi. SF 487: Operation of State Government
   xvii. SF 524: Psychiatric Bed Tracking
   xviii. SF 526: Emergency Detention
   xix. SF 528: Mental Illness Reports
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid waiver for SUD-support* dead</td>
<td>HF 108</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to a Medicaid demonstration waiver to support and improve the delivery of substance use disorder treatment services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Identity Hate Crimes-Undecided*</td>
<td>HF 120</td>
<td>A bill for an act modifying the elements defining hate crimes, and providing penalties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Continuing Education-support* dead</td>
<td>HF 132</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to online continuing education courses for maintaining a professional license.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of License deadlines-support*</td>
<td>HF 133</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the extension of deadlines for the completion of continuing education requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bans Transgender bathrooms-Against* dead</td>
<td>HF 187</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to unfair practices involving access to areas of public accommodations or educational institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legalize Conversion Therapy-Against* dead</td>
<td>HF 193</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to actions relative to treatment or intervention regarding the discordance between a minor’s sex and gender identity, and providing civil penalties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mental health telehealth parity- alive</td>
<td>HF 294</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to reimbursement rates for health care services for mental health conditions, illnesses, injuries, or diseases provided to covered persons by telehealth, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.(Formerly HF 89.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Summary</td>
<td>HF</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio only telehealth-support* alive</td>
<td>431</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the provision of audio-only telehealth or telemedicine by health care professionals.(Formerly HF 88.)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement for SUD. - undecided* dead</td>
<td>446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health services and reimbursement, and including effective date provisions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of MCO’s-support* dead</td>
<td>447</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the evaluation of Medicaid-managed care long-term services and supports.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD Waiver-undecided* alive</td>
<td>479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to a Medicaid demonstration waiver to support and improve the delivery of mental health services through institutions for mental diseases.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision for Therapists-supported* dead</td>
<td>485</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to supervision requirements for licensed marital and family therapists, mental health counselors, and social workers, and including effective date provisions.(Formerly HF 107.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bed Tracking-Undecided-no one has registered * -dead</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telehealth $ Parity (Formerly 294)-support* dead</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to reimbursement rates for health care services provided to covered persons by telehealth, and including retroactive applicability provisions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-medical Switching-support* dead</td>
<td>656</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bill for an act relating to continuity of care and nonmedical switching by health carriers, health benefit plans, and utilization review organizations, and including applicability provisions.(Formerly HF 372.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHDS region funding</td>
<td>HF 661</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to mental health and disability services regions, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSDT Non-certified Staff</td>
<td>HF 691</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the qualifications of noncertified staff providing early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment benefit services under the Medicaid program.(Formerly HSB 172.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement $ Parity Support</td>
<td>HF 706</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to reimbursement rates for health care services provided to covered persons by telehealth, and including applicability provisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Health Carriers</td>
<td>HF 731</td>
<td>A bill for an act prohibiting certain health carriers from excluding certain out-of-state health care professionals from participating as providers, via telehealth, under the carriers’ policies, plans, and contracts, and including effective date and applicability provisions.(Formerly HF 269.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations of Medicaid</td>
<td>HF 736</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to limitations on activities related to paid claims under the Medicaid program, and including effective date provisions.(Formerly HSB 225.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa</td>
<td>HJR 11</td>
<td>A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the qualifications of electors.(Formerly HSB 143.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Program &amp; Oversight</td>
<td>HSB 169</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to Medicaid program processes and oversight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HSB 201</td>
<td>A bill for an act establishing the occupational therapy licensure compact.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 178</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to continuity of care and nonmedical switching by health carriers, health benefit plans, and utilization review organizations, and including applicability provisions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 293</td>
<td>A bill for an act including transportation services as a core service domain under the regional mental health and disability services system.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 354</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to continuing education requirements for persons holding certain professional and occupational licenses. (Formerly SF 163.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 389</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to public assistance program oversight. (Formerly SSB 1125.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 398</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to a mental health service providers competitive grant program for school districts and area education agencies, making an appropriation, and including effective date provisions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF 4</td>
<td>A bill for an act relating to the elimination of the certificate of need process relating to the development of a new or changed institutional health service.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apprenticeship - undecided* alive  
SF 424  
A bill for an act relating to the licensure of persons completing an apprenticeship, and including effective date provisions. (Formerly SSB 1149.)

Voting Members of Governing Board - undecided* alive  
SF 461  
A bill for an act relating to the voting members of a governing board of a mental health and disability services region. (Formerly SSB 1158.)

Occupational Therapy Licensure - undecided* alive  
SF 463  
A bill for an act establishing the occupational therapy licensure compact. (Formerly SSB 1185.)

Operation of State Government - undecided* alive  
SF 487  
A bill for an act relating to the operation of state government, including the review of state boards, the regulation of professions and occupations, and investigations conducted by state boards, and including effective date and applicability provisions. (Formerly SSB 1046.)

Psychiatric Bed Tracking - support* - alive  
SF 524  
A bill for an act establishing an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system study committee. (Formerly SSB 1227.)

Emergency Detention - undecided* - alive  
SF 526  
A bill for an act relating to the emergency detention of a person experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis and access centers. (Formerly SSB 1234.)

Mental Illness Reports - support* - alive  
SF 528  
A bill for an act relating to reports prepared by a chief medical officer, licensed physician, or a mental health professional concerning the hospitalization of a person with a mental illness. (Formerly SSB 1229.)

Psychology interjurisdictional - undecided* dead  
SF 78  
A bill for an act adopting the psychology interjurisdictional compact.
Telehealth $ parity-registered as support*; incomplete needs amendment dead

Felon voting rights – Support* dead

Medicaid Program Processes & Oversight-Support* Dead

A bill for an act relating to reimbursement rates for health care services provided to covered persons by telehealth, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the qualifications of electors.

A bill for an act relating to Medicaid program processes and oversight.
HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR FIRST TIME ADVOCATES

First time? Don’t worry! IMHCA has you covered. See below for suggestions and information on how to discuss these very important issues with Iowa’s Senators and Representatives.

Prior to the visit/event: Prep Work

- Know who your local legislators are! If possible, send an email to let them know you will be at the capitol and seek them out after the event. The extra effort can go a long way down the road!
- Identify 1-3 goals for your visit. Don’t try and accomplish too much as you will run out of time and the importance of your message could be lost. Break those goals down into 2-5 talking points each. Once you have established your goals and talking points, decide which committees and/or legislators you need to speak with. Note party line stance, committee role(s), voting record on the issue(s), etc. as you prepare.

During the Event: Talking to Legislators:

- Use ‘Senator’ or ‘Representative’ when addressing all legislators.
- Introduce yourself and include your credentials and city of origin. For example: “Hello. I am Suzy Smith, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and I work in Private Practice here in Des Moines.” or “Hello. My name is Joe Clark, and I am a student at XYZ University studying mental health counseling.”
- Be courteous and to the point.
- Identify the bill you would like to discuss and explain why you support or oppose this particular piece of legislation. Be as specific as possible (for example, is it the entire bill or just certain language in the bill that you support or oppose?). Reiterate the talking points you developed for each bill, and respectfully communicate them, leaving time for questions. If working in a group, designate 1-2 individuals to lead the discussion as you may only have 5 minutes to make your point.
- Keep in mind that local examples concerning the impact of legislation are very powerful. Think of how the legislation being discussed would impact you at an individual level. For example, would it make it harder for you to be reimbursed for your services? Would it ensure that consumers from your hometown get the kind of quality mental health services they desperately need? Would it create new opportunities for upcoming graduates or
newly licensed counselors? This feedback is often what is desired during these discussions, so do not be afraid to weigh in!

- Let your legislators know if you agree or disagree on a particular vote. This feedback is important as it often takes several sessions for a bill to pass both the House and the Senate. She/he could be asked to vote on the same issue next year!
- Always thank them for their time.

After the visit/event: Follow-Up

- If possible send a follow-up email or letter to reiterate what was discussed and again show your appreciation for a willingness to discuss your concerns.

How to Request a Conversation

- Circle the option called “waiting to see you.” Include where you are from, especially if you are a constituent. Also, include your cell phone number so they can reach you before you leave the building if they cannot see you immediately.
- Hand the slip to the doorkeeper and wait for a response. Sometimes it may take your legislator 10-15 minutes to come out. (They may be finishing up a call or conversation before coming out to talk to you.)
- If your legislator is not available or not in their seat, a page or doorkeeper will come back out and call your name. If your note does not come back out it means your legislator was there and will be out soon to talk to you.
- Sometimes a staff person will come out to speak to you if the legislator is occupied. Be polite and treat this staff person as you would the legislator — a lot of times the staff person is a friend, relative, daughter/son or spouse of the legislator.
- Be prepared and be patient. The Capitol can be noisy and crowded, and you may feel jostled if the crowd that day is particularly large.
ADDITIONAL STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

The American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA): The leading national organization for licensed clinical mental health counselors. AMHCA strives to be the go-to organization for LCMHCs for education, advocacy, leadership and collaboration. http://www.amhca.org/

The Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association (IMHCA): The Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association is a chapter of the American Mental Health Counselors Association. IMHCA is the only organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the professional needs of mental health counselors in Iowa. Its sole purpose is to promote the profession of mental health counseling and the needs of our clients. http://www.imhca.net/

Legislative News: The Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association follows and reports on new legislation and updates to current legislation affecting mental health counselors in Iowa. http://www.imhca.net/legislative-news

Find Your Legislator: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators; Committee Assignments and Agenda pages: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees


The Bureau of Professional Licensure: The Bureau of Professional Licensure is a Bureau within the Iowa Department of Public Health with 19 licensure boards regulating 39 professions. The mission of the professional boards is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by licensing qualified individuals and enforcing Iowa’s statutes and administrative rules fairly and consistently. https://ibplicense.iowa.gov

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: https://www.cms.gov/
infoNET – Advocating for Change in the Iowa General Assembly: The 2018 Guide to the Iowa Legislature contains a colorful guide (including pictures of Iowa’s legislators and information on what someone could expect during a trip to the Capitol for advocacy purposes) that was created to give advocates with disabilities the tools, information, and opportunities they need to take action. www.infonetiowa.org/documents/cms/docs/2018_infoNET_Legislative_Guide_Final-1-19-18_website.pdf

infoNET – Advocating for Change in the Iowa General Assembly: The Advocacy Toolkit is a great resource that outlines how to request a quick meeting with lawmakers on the floor of House and/or Senate, and what to do if those legislators are unable to meet. http://www.infonetiowa.org/documents/cms/docs/Toolkit4-7-15.2.pdf

USA.gov: Online guide to government information and services. https://www.usa.gov/laws-and-regulations
PARTICIPATION IN MAKING IOWA LAWS

The state Senator and state Representative from each district are elected to represent constituent interests when making the laws of Iowa. Citizens can take part in the decisions made by those elected officials.

For locating constituent Senators and Representatives, or to learn more about the Iowa Legislature, contact the Legislative Information Office (LIO). Search the web using Find Your Legislator on the Iowa General Assembly website: www.legis.iowa.gov

E-mail: lioinfo@legis.iowa.gov

Legislative Information Office – Room G16

Legislative Services Agency Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone: 515-281-5129

- Contact Senators during the legislative session at the Capitol by calling the Senate Switchboard at 515-281-3371, or address mail to the Iowa Senate, State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319.
- Contact Representatives during the session at the Capitol by calling the House Switchboard at 515-281-3221, or address mail to the Iowa House of Representatives, State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319. The Iowa General Assembly website lists e-mail addresses of all legislators, or call the LIO.
- Legislators may also be contacted at their homes (call the LIO or check listings on the Iowa General Assembly web site). The Iowa Constitution requires the legislative sessions of each General Assembly to convene yearly on the second Monday in January. Adjournment usually comes at the end of April. During the legislative session, both the Senate and House have operators on duty to take phone calls and relay messages to legislators. Any citizen visiting the Capitol can arrange to meet with legislators.
- Observe the session. The debates may be viewed from galleries in the Senate and House chambers. The public may attend committee
meetings and public hearings on legislation. Live audio of the Senate and House debates is available on the Iowa General Assembly website.

Committee Work The first part of the session is devoted to committee meetings. All bills that are debated must be approved by committee.

A standing committee is a group of legislators that review all bills relating to a specific subject area. Once a bill is assigned to a committee, the committee chairperson appoints a subcommittee. The subcommittee, usually composed of three members of the standing committee, reviews the bill in detail and reports its conclusions to the full committee. The full committee then discusses the subcommittee’s conclusions and makes recommendations to the entire chamber. The committee may recommend to pass the bill, to pass the bill with amendment, to refer the bill to another committee for study, to postpone the bill indefinitely, or to send the bill to the floor for debate with no recommendation.

Debate - When debate on a bill is finished, the bill’s title is read aloud to the chamber for the third and final time. If a constitutional majority (at least 26 Senators and 51 Representatives) votes to pass the bill, it moves to the other chamber. If fewer legislators than a constitutional majority vote to pass the bill, the bill fails.

Second Passage Amendments adopted by the chamber of origin are incorporated in the bill before it is sent to the other chamber. As the bill proceeds through the Legislature, the procedure in both chambers is basically the same.

A bill introduced in the Senate will retain its original Senate number as it travels through the House and a bill introduced in the House will retain its original House number as it travels through the Senate. If the bill is further amended by the other chamber, the amended bill is sent back to the chamber of origin for approval. If the chamber of origin concurs or agrees with the amendment(s), the bill has passed both chambers in identical form and will be sent to the Governor for review. If the chamber of origin refuses to concur with the other chamber’s amendment(s), the bill is returned to the other chamber, which may recede from or insist upon their amended version of the bill. If they recede, the bill is sent to the Governor; however, if they insist upon their amendment(s), a conference committee is appointed to work out the differences.
Conference Committee Conference committees are composed of Senate and House members representing both the majority and minority parties and both sides of the issue in dispute. The 10 members of a conference committee are appointed by the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House to study the points of disagreement between the chambers in an attempt to reach a compromise.

If an agreement is reached, it is presented to both chambers in a report that contains the compromise version of the bill. The report cannot be amended by either chamber. If the report is rejected by either chamber, a second conference committee may be appointed. If no agreement is reached, the bill fails. If the conference committee report is adopted, the chambers again vote on the bill. If the bill is approved it will be enrolled and sent to the Governor for review.

Final preparation of a bill before it is sent to the Governor is called enrollment. When both chambers have passed the bill in the same form, it is prepared with all approved amendments incorporated. After the bill is enrolled, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House sign the enrolled version and the Secretary of the Senate or Chief Clerk of the House certifies that the bill originated in that chamber. The bill is then sent to the Governor for final action.
Organization of the Iowa General Assembly

Citizens Elect

Senate 50 Members
- Senate Elects
  - Majority Leader
  - Senate President
  - Minority Leader
  - Assistant Majority Leaders
  - Assistant Minority Leaders
  - Secretary of the Senate

House 100 Members
- House Elects
  - Majority Leader
  - House Speaker
  - Minority Leader
  - Assistant Majority Leaders
  - Assistant Minority Leaders
  - Chief Clerk of the House


Joint Appropriations Subcommittees: Administration and Regulation, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economic Development, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice System, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals


1/07/10
Legislative Information Office – Room G16
Iowa State Capitol
Iowa General Assembly web site: www.legis.iowa.gov
IOWA CAPITOL COMPLEX

PARKING LOT KEY

- PARKING FOR VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES
- VISITOR PARKING
- RESERVED / SERVICE PARKING
- CONTRACTOR PARKING
- EMPLOYEE ONLY
- RESERVED EMPLOYEE
- EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR PARKING
- CARPOOL/RIDESHARE VEHICLE SPACES
- MOTORCYCLE SPACES
- PARKING FOR EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

STREET PARKING (PLEASE OBSERVE POSTED HOURS FOR NO PARKING)

ADDITIONAL ACCESSIBLE PARKING IS ALSO LOCATED IN EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR LOTS.

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2017