

Fully fund health care services and community-based supports, and address workforce crisis.	Support an inclusive and accessible community for all Iowans.	Reduce or eliminate all HCBS waiver waiting lists.
<p><b>Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Medicaid behavioral health services by \$13 million.</li> <li>• Began to replace federal money used to increase HCBS rates in 2022 (\$5.5 million – one quarter).</li> <li>• Rent subsidies for individuals receiving HCBS waiver services by \$215,000.</li> <li>• Added \$500,000 to address backlog in requests for public guardian.</li> <li>• Funded MH/DS regions as planned (\$6.5 million to go to \$40/per capita) – total state investment now more than \$121 million.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempted waiver homes from “facility” sprinkler requirements, bringing down the cost of retrofitting homes in the community.</li> <li>• Passed resolution designating March as Disabilities Awareness Month in Iowa.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action, but HHS Budget subcommittee discussed in one of their two meetings and gave general support for HHS’ plan to reform waivers.</li> </ul>

Promising	Promising	Promising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF 243 prohibits insurance companies from placing age limits and max benefits on autism coverage (House 99-0).</li> <li>• HF 275 aligns ID &amp; BI waiver home and vehicle modification caps – cost is \$679,000.</li> <li>• HF 562 requires insurance coverage of repairs and maintenance to complex rehab wheelchairs without prior authorization.</li> <li>• SF 7 &amp; HF 264 exempt all direct support professional wages from state income tax (broader than DSP – anyone working for a non-profit provider of disability services).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF 471 rebalances MH/DS regional governing boards to strengthen voices of providers, persons served, and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• HF 521 requires communities to include van accessible priority parking for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• SF 37 requires apartment buildings more than two floors to have an elevator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HF 685 uses an MCO tax to draw down additional federal funding, generating between \$100-120 million per year beginning in FY 2025 (potential source of investment in HCBS services).</li> <li>• HSB 49 adds an autism waiver.</li> </ul>

## Confusing

- Increased nursing home reimbursement by \$15 million and \$600,000 for MHI specialization.
- Created a new Facilities fund for sale of HHS-run property, for investment in other institutions.
- Added new income verification procedures for all public benefit programs and asset tests for SNAP.
- Used \$8 million of \$44 million Centene (Total Care) settlement to pay for new Public Assistance Modernization Fund for tech updates to improve eligibility systems.
- Dental reimbursement changes presented by HHS, but stopped short of allowing HHS to implement changes without legislative authorization.

## Confusing

- Eliminated the requirement that the Health Policy Oversight Committee meet.
- Required caucus participation to be in person and allowed parties to set their own caucus rules (including registration requirements).
- Cut state funding for public transit by \$500,000 (only \$1 million left).
- Limited city and county property tax growth to 2-3% annually.

## Confusing

- Unfortunately, the fact that this is under review delayed any discussion on it (wait and see).

## Missed opportunities for inclusion:

- Government Reorganization (SF 514)
- HHS Boards and Commissions Changes (HF 566 – but did not pass)
- Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) halt at state universities with extensive reporting due by end of year (SF 560).
- Classroom discipline and considerations for students with IEP or 504 plan (HF 604).
- Legislative adaptations for individuals who are blind/vision-impaired or deaf/hard-of-hearing.

## Supportive Environments for Students with Disabilities:

- Fails
  - Educational Savings Accounts/Vouchers/Scholarships (HF 68)
  - AEA funding reduced by \$29.5 million (SF 578)
  - No funding for braille and accessible services (each district must now pay).
- Promising
  - LEAD-K (Language Equity & Acquisition for Deaf Kids) funded partially at \$200,000.
  - Scholarships for college-based transition programs/VR match (HF 252, passed House 95-0).
  - Requirement that K-8 curricula integrate awareness of people with disabilities, including anti-bullying (HF 513).
  - Making schools seizure prepared (HF 608, passed House 96-1)
  - Excused absences for kids receiving autism treatment (HF 610, passed House 97-0)

## **Making Voting Accessible for All Iowans:**

- Making all in-person early voting and Election-day registration voting provisional (HF 65 – did not pass).
- Requiring voters to be registered with party 147 days before a Primary Election (HF 148 – did not pass).
- Requiring a person from each party's challenge committee to personally swear and witness a ballot has been voted secretly before it can be inserted in a ballot box and cannot be counted (HF 543 – did not pass).

## **Health, Well-Being, Employment:**

- HF 537 allows electronic monitoring of nursing home residents – more discussion coming on use of technology to bridge staffing shortages.
- HF 408 exempts adaptive driving equipment for veterans from state sales tax – could be expanded.
- HF 387 requires Medicaid coverage for safe catheters.
- SF 295 updates Iowa's guardianship and conservatorship laws to require the use of the same forms for all, whether guardian is family member, lawyer, or appointed (Passed Senate 47-0).
- HF 368 creates an innovative program that would allow individuals with disabilities to work to their full potential without threatening the supports they need to do so, called Work without Worry.