## 2023 Legislative Session Review

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fully fund health care services and community-based supports, and address workforce crisis.</th>
<th>Support an inclusive and accessible community for all Iowans.</th>
<th>Reduce or eliminate all HCBS waiver waiting lists.</th>
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<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
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<td>• Increased Medicaid behavioral health services by $13 million.</td>
<td>• Exempted waiver homes from “facility” sprinkler requirements, bringing down the cost of retrofitting homes in the community.</td>
<td>• No action, but HHS Budget subcommittee discussed in one of their two meetings and gave general support for HHS’ plan to reform waivers.</td>
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<td>• Began to replace federal money used to increase HCBS rates in 2022 ($5.5 million – one quarter).</td>
<td>• Passed resolution designating March as Disabilities Awareness Month in Iowa.</td>
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<td>• Rent subsidies for individuals receiving HCBS waiver services by $215,000.</td>
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<td>• Added $500,000 to address backlog in requests for public guardian.</td>
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<td>• Funded MH/DS regions as planned ($6.5 million to go to $40/per capita) – total state investment now more than $121 million.</td>
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### Promising

- **HF 243** prohibits insurance companies from placing age limits and max benefits on autism coverage (House 99-0).
- **HF 275** aligns ID & BI waiver home and vehicle modification caps – cost is $679,000.
- **HF 562** requires insurance coverage of repairs and maintenance to complex rehab wheelchairs without prior authorization.
- **SF 7 & 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).

### Promising

- **HF 471** rebalances MH/DS regional governing boards to strengthen voices of providers, persons served, and other stakeholders.
- **HF 521** requires communities to include van accessible priority parking for persons with disabilities.
- **SF 37** requires apartment buildings more than two floors to have an elevator.

### Promising

- **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).
- **HSB 49** adds an autism waiver.
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<th>Confusing</th>
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<td>• Increased nursing home reimbursement by $15 million and $600,000 for MHI specialization.</td>
<td>• Eliminated the requirement that the Health Policy Oversight Committee meet.</td>
<td>• Unfortunately, the fact that this is under review delayed any discussion on it (wait and see).</td>
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<td>• Created a new Facilities fund for sale of HHS-run property, for investment in other institutions.</td>
<td>• Required caucus participation to be in person and allowed parties to set their own caucus rules (including registration requirements).</td>
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<td>• Added new income verification procedures for all public benefit programs and asset tests for SNAP.</td>
<td>• Cut state funding for public transit by $500,000 (only $1 million left).</td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• Limited city and county property tax growth to 2-3% annually.</td>
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<td>• Dental reimbursement changes presented by HHS, but stopped short of allowing HHS to implement changes without legislative authorization.</td>
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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
  o Educational Savings Accounts/Vouchers/Scholarships (HF 68)
  o AEA funding reduced by $29.5 million (SF 578)
  o No funding for braille and accessible services (each district must now pay).

• Promising
  o LEAD-K (Language Equity & Acquisition for Deaf Kids) funded partially at $200,000.
  o Scholarships for college-based transition programs/VR match (HF 252, passed House 95-0).
  o Requirement that K-8 curricula integrate awareness of people with disabilities, including anti-bullying (HF 513).
  o Making schools seizure prepared (HF 608, passed House 96-1)
  o 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.