

January 20, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members: Roxanne Cogil, Hugh Kelly, Matthew Conaway, Brittney Drinovsky, Brady Werger, Mark Smith

Absent Council Members: Kristen Aller, Rob Roozeboom, Carol Cross

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Public: None

Updates on legislation proposed, introduced, passed, etc.

Crowe stated things are moving quickly in the legislature. House Study Bill (HSB) 2 is the voucher bill for private schools and it is moving through the House of Representatives (the House). It is not known how this will affect students in special education or students needing special services in non-public schools. Also, it is not known if funding for special services will move from public schools to private schools. Another bill we are monitoring is House File (HF) 65. This bill is about voting access. The DD Council has declared against it as it will make voting less accessible. The bill states that if they can't verify you when you vote in person, you will have to fill out a provisional ballot. There is Senate Study Bill (SSB) 1050 that is looking at insurance coverage for autism. The DD Council is in favor of this bill. The DD Council is also in favor of HF16. This bill is about scholarships for post-secondary education for students with disabilities. Two programs in Iowa would be able to service students who qualify for this scholarship. Cogil stated these two programs are not eligible for federal student aid and students do not get a degree for completing these programs. HF19 is a loan repayment program for mental health professionals. The DD Council is in favor of this bill. HF3 is about public assistance programs and an "authentication system." This bill requires anyone signing up for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to provide a lot of information and limits what can be purchased. The DD Council is registered against this bill. Lovelace mentioned this would have to get federal approval since SNAP is partially federally funded. HSB24 is a contract bill for people who are direct service professionals and other health care professions to not have to sign a non-compete clause during their employment. The DD Council has declared in favor of this bill. Senate File (SF) 37 requires elevators in apartment buildings that are three floors or more. The DD Council has declared in favor of this bill. SSB 1024 is a college loan repayment bill for mental health professionals. The DD Council is in favor of this bill. SF7 provides income tax exemption for direct support professionals who are serving people with disabilities and who are working for a non-profit organization. The DD Council is in favor of this bill. Drinovsky asked if the DD Council is aware of HSB49. This bill for an act relating to Medicaid and home and community-based services waiver for children with autism. Cogil stated this bill is only written for children but family navigators have been meeting with legislators about possibly extending this bill to include adults with autism. Cogil asked if Crowe is aware of SF86 which is a non-medical switching bill for insurance coverage for medications. Crowe stated she

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will monitor this bill. Drinovsky stated that HSB2 talks about school choice and there were questions about services for special education. Drinovsky stated she will talk with her State Representative Henry Stone about this. Crowe stated last year the Senate called for a study to be done about special education support for students enrolled in non-public schools. On December 1, 2022 the legislative task force looked at what supports are needed for students in non-public schools. The task force came up with six or seven recommendations that are not in the current bill. Last year the Senate stated they were going to wait for the fiscal analysis from the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) before they brought it to the floor in the Senate. Not sure if this is happening this year. Cogil stated not all non-public schools have school nurses and non-public schools have a right to deny enrollment. Lovelace stated Disability Rights Iowa (DRI) made great comments against this bill related to how this will affect children with special needs. Lovelace stated we will be sending out a white paper after this bill passes explaining what this means for students with special education services. DD Council has not taken an official stand yet. 40 counties do not have access to private schools. Cogil stated SSB1045 was introduced by the Occupational Therapy Association. The bill would like a major change of classification to be able to be Applied Behavioral Analysis providers for billing. Link for this bill is: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=ssb1045> Crowe stated there has already been an amendment introduced for the Student First Act which she has sent to Amy Campbell to help decipher.

Communication Updates/Reminders

Cogil stated she couldn't initially get her address to work on the DD Council website to find her legislators but has since found that the website does not allow house numbers or cities as part of an address. Capitol Snapshot this week will cover the Students First Act. Crowe stated Representative Turek will join us next week on video for our Capitol Chat. Cogil stated Representative Ingels has a daughter with down syndrome. Cogil asked if there is an updated list of events with legislators on the website. Lovelace stated this is on the calendar under events but there is an issue with showing where the event is actually located. We will be fixing this. Cogil asked for the Infonet newsletter to include the PDF with the locations of events. Lovelace stated we cannot share the PDF as it is not ours to share.

Legislative Breakfast reminder – Feb. 1 @ 7-9:30 a.m.

Werger stated he has been in contact with the governor's scheduler and he is trying to get the Governor and Lt. Governor to attend the breakfast at the Capitol.

Action Items

Council members, please invite your legislators to the Legislative Breakfast

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