

February 17, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members: Roxanne Cogil, Hugh Kelly, Matthew Conaway, Carol Cross, Mark Smith

Absent Council Members: Kristen Aller, Rob Roozeboom, Brady Werger, Brittney Drinovsky

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Public: None

Bill Updates and Communicating with Legislators

Cogil has been working for several years on a bill that would require school employees to be trained on how to respond to seizures. This bill has passed out of subcommittee on the Senate side. It's called Seizure Safe School legislation. Nineteen states have passed legislation about this and families have visited with local legislators. Representative Sorenson has advocated for this for five years. A young adult spoke this fall about what happened when she had a seizure at school. The teacher could not help out of fear and she had to be assisted by another student. Putting a face to the issue is impactful for legislators. In 2021 the bill passed in the House. Due to the 2-year legislative cycle, the bill only needed to pass the Senate last year because it was still viable. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass the Senate last year. This year, Cogil filed the same bill in the Senate. During the subcommittee, the people that were in opposition of this bill were mostly representing schools. The reason for the opposition is that they want local control to decide what trainings are required. The section to include private school employees to have seizure training did not make it in the bill but Cogil thinks all schools should receive this training.

Crowe shared a list of bills and the DD Council's declaration on them. Some of them are:

- Guardianships and conservatorships SF295 – UNDECIDED
- Medicaid members having direct health care agreements SF172 – UNDECIDED
- Non-medical switching HF96/SF86 (medical insurance can currently switch patients to a similar medication if insurance does not cover prescribed medication) - FOR
- Postsecondary program scholarships program HF252 – FOR
- Excused absences from school for students with autism-related care HF285 – FOR
- Insurance coverage for autism with no age limit and number of appointments HF243 – FOR
- Brain health HF273 - UNDECIDED.

Conaway asked what the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship is. Crowe stated we are following the bill on this so Crowe can learn more about apprenticeships.

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There is a bill that moves absentee ballots from 20 days to 40 days. Another bill is for election day voting. It states that if you register to vote on election day, you have to fill out a provisional ballot. It complicates the process. The DD Council is against this bill.

There are two Public Assistance bills that the DD Council is keeping an eye on. One bill has passed out of the House subcommittee but it's not going anywhere yet. The one in the Senate passed out of subcommittee also but with a lot of opposition because it sets asset limits for Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Children's health Insurance Program (CHIP). This is a bad bill for people on these services. If these bills do pass, they would have to be approved at the federal level.

Capitol Days

We have two groups this week. Wednesday is Iowa Family Leadership Initiative and Thursday is the University of Iowa Reach program students. The next groups will be coming in March.

March as Disabilities Awareness Month

March 9th the proclamation will happen at the Capitol. This can be viewed live online also.

Capitol Chat and Snapshot

Next Capitol Chat will be next Friday. We will discuss the Mathematica recommendations and the Harkin Institute Report with Lisa Cook.

Snapshots occur every week. This week the DD Council interviewed Sarah Young-Bear Brown because recently during the State Government Reorganization Committee meeting, Sarah Young-Bear Brown's ASL interpreter was not allowed to show her video during the meeting. This gained some media attention.

There is a bill that's been introduced that changes and lets the Governor make the appointment for the Director of the Department of Blind instead of letting the Department of the Blind choose their director. There have been meetings about this recently and many are opposing this bill.

Smith asked what is happening with Representative Turek's bills. Crowe stated that none have his bills have been introduced yet.

Action Items

None

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