



## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

### Week 4 State Legislative Session

This week, Governor Reynolds released the final report from the Economic Recovery Advisory Board. The board was comprised of the following working groups: Agriculture, Connectivity, Economic Growth, Education, Government, Public Health and Healthcare, and Expanding Iowa's Workforce. You may recall Emily Schmitt from Sukup Manufacturing served on the Advisory Board and Chamber President Robin Anderson served on the Government Working Group, which Schmitt co-chaired. The board compiled a list of top recommendations for the Governor based on the working group's findings.

#### **Top Recommendations:**

- Empower workforce by caring for our youngest Iowans (Childcare Initiatives)
- Make Iowa a global leader in Broadband
- Create an environment to attract and retain Iowans (Placemaking & Housing initiatives)
- Modernize healthcare in Iowa
- Boost K-12 student achievement and career readiness
- Invest in manufacturing innovation
- Elevate government efficiency efforts

#### **Childcare Legislation**

The Iowa House members have introduced several bills to address childcare needs across the state. Most of the bills filed provide grants, tax credits, and incentives to increase the number of childcare providers and encourage businesses to offer childcare options. While the multiple bills have started to move through subcommittee and committee, House leadership intends to combine the successful initiatives and pass one large childcare package. On Monday, February 8 (today) the House will debate several childcare bills, including HF 230, HF 370, HF 260, HF 292, HF 301, and HF 302.

#### **Broadband**

During the Condition of the State, Governor Reynold's announced her commitment to expanding Broadband speed and coverage to meet the needs of Iowans. Last week, Governor Reynolds filed HSB 133 and SSB 1089, outlining her proposed \$450 million investment in broadband infrastructure and expansion. HSB 133 will be considered in the House Information Technology Committee, and SSB 1089 will be addressed in the Senate Commerce Committee. At a Senate Subcommittee meeting last week, the bill received broad bipartisan support. Committee Chair Schultz asked interested parties to provide policy recommendations that could supplement the requested funding.

#### **Housing**

Governor Reynolds introduced SSB 1142 and HSB 178 to address housing needs across the state. These bills will increase workforce housing tax credits, establish a housing tax credit program, expand redevelopment tax credits, create disaster recovery housing assistance, support Main Street revitalization efforts, and support the state housing trust fund. SSB 1142 passed out of subcommittee on February 4 and will move to the local government committee for consideration before being voted on by the Senate. HSB 178 was assigned to a subcommittee and will likely be considered in the upcoming week.