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Eide Walton Legislative Update March 10, 2023

1 message

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LOBBYING AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Legislative Update Week Nine

In order to keep bills moving through the process, the Iowa General Assembly spends the week after the first funnel focused on floor debate. Since the House and Senate were busy in their chambers, very few subcommittee and full committee meetings were held.

The second funnel deadline is March 31st. With some exceptions, Senate bills must be reported out of House committees and House bills must be reported out of Senate committees to remain eligible for consideration.



State Government Reorganization

This week, the Senate passed **SF 514**, the State Government Reorganization bill, by a vote of 35-15. A **Fiscal Note** was published on this bill this week, too. Last week, **HSB 126** passed out of the House State Government Committee. Its new bill number is still pending as of this writing.

Amendments in both chambers have led to the bills being different. Legislators will have to negotiate in order to find agreement on their changes. This must be resolved before the

- For Families: the initial income eligibility limit increased from 145% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 155% FPL.
- For Child Care Providers: the maximum CCA Provider Rates were increased.

For more information on both of these changes please see our new Child Care News and Initiatives webpage at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/childcare/child-care-news-initiatives>.

Child Care News and Initiatives

The Department of Health and Human Services continues to collaborate with stakeholders and the governor's office to improve accessibility and quality of childcare throughout the State. They have launched a new webpage called "Child Care News and Initiatives" to keep stakeholders informed. Check here for regular updates as they continue to implement new initiatives in childcare.

This site can be found at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/childcare/child-care-news-initiatives>.

Postpartum Medicaid Extension Bill Introduced

This week, the House Ways and Means Committee introduced [HSB 226](#), which would extend the Medicaid post partum coverage period from six weeks to 12 months.

The federal American Rescue Plan gives states the option to extend the Medicaid post partum coverage period through a state plan amendment. The Kaiser Family Foundation has a tracker that shows which states are acting on this option. You can access their site [here](#).

This coverage option has been considered by the Iowa Legislature in the past through their discussion of the new maternal health program, referred to as the MOMs program, but has not been acted upon.

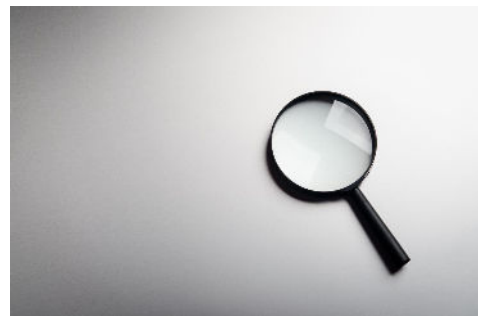
In 2022, the Iowa General Assembly directed the Department Health and Human Services to do a study and provide information about the 12-month extension. You can find that report [here](#).



Public Assistance Oversight

There was no movement for the public assistance oversight bills in either chamber this week. An Appropriations subcommittee for [HF 613](#) (formerly [HF 3](#)) has been assigned. The subcommittee will consist of five House members:

Rep. Joel Fry (R)
Rep. Tracy Ehlert (D)
Rep. Heather Matson (D)
Rep. Ann Meyer (R)
Rep. Henry Stone (R)



A fiscal note has not yet been published for HF 613 or for the Senate version, [SF 494](#). The Senate version does not include the \$1.0 million appropriation for Double Up Food Bucks

and has not been referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Around the Capitol

GENTLE PERSUASION SUCCEEDS WHERE FORCE FAILS

AESOP

Funnel is the first big hurdle in session but there are still many conversations to have before we're done. The quote above sums up the Eide Walton philosophy and why we're willing to log hundreds of "talking miles" every year with legislators.

(We did try to make Maddy the Team's "tough guy", but it wasn't a good fit.)



Maddy hangs out before committee.



Matt and Maddy talk with Rep. Jane Bloomingdale (R-Northwood)



Maddy talks with Rep. Devon Wood (R-New Market)



Kate with Senator Klimesh (R-Spillville)



Matt on the phone with Vegas for some much-needed bracket advice.



Kate's finger is dangerously close to changing positions as Matt distracts her

from her Zoom.

Please don't hesitate to contact us!



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