



IOWA HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

We care about Iowa's health

AAHAM Spring Conference Legislative Update

May 11, 2022

Erin Cubit

Senior Director, Advocacy

IHA State 2022 Legislative Priorities



IHA State 2022 Legislative Priorities

- **Workforce/Tort Reform**

- Expand training opportunities
- Invest in initiatives
- Medical malpractice reform

- **Hospital Operations**

- Add REH Licensure
- Monitor vaccines legislation
- Protect CON

- **Medicaid/Fiscal Issues**

- Ease Medicaid complexities
- Reimbursement for “Days Awaiting Placement”
- Increase investment in Cost Adjustment Factor
- Reduce admin barriers

- **Behavioral Health**

- Add Psychiatric Intensive Care (PIC)
- Increase workforce

Legislative Environment

- **100 Day Session**

- Scheduled to end on April 19

- 1st Funnel Deadline was Feb 18

- 2nd Funnel Deadline is March 18

- **Hot Topics**

- Taxes

- Education and curriculum

- Elections

- Welfare eligibility

- COVID-19 protocols

- Other health-related issues

What's alive and dead after the 2nd Funnel?

***Disclaimer – This is not an exhaustive list of what is alive and dead – please review IHA's Bill Tracker for a complete list.**

Workforce/Tort Reform

- **Gov's Workforce Bill** SF 2383 – Sent to the Governor's Office
- **Gov's Tort Reform Bill** SF 2275 and HF 2279 – Alive but has an uphill battle
- **MH Loan Repayment Prog.** HF 2549 – Passed the House and amended by the Senate, Waiting for a second House vote
- **Last Dollar Scholarships** SF 2129 and HF 2165 – Alive but has an uphill battle
- **Employment Agencies** HF 2521 – Sent to the Governor's Office

Hospital Operations

- **Pharmacy Matters** SF 2088 and HF 2169 – Alive but has an uphill battle
- **Vol. EMS Tax Abatement** SF 2375 – Alive but has an uphill battle
- **Certificate of Need**
- **Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Licensure**
- **Iowa Health Information Network** HF 2544 – ???

Medicaid/Fiscal Issues

- **Prior Authorizations** HF 2399 – Signed by the Governor
- **Medicaid Overpayments** HF 736 – Sent to the Governor's Office
- **MOMS Program** SF 2354 – ???
- **Substance Abuse Rates** SF 2116 – ???
- **Welfare Checks** HF 2438 – ???
- **Medicaid Reimbursements** HF 2033 - Dead
- **Medicaid Payments** SF 2065 – Dead
- **Medicaid Reimbursements** SF 2067 – Dead
- **Administrative Days** SF 2146 – Dead

Behavioral Health

- **Intensive Psych Care** SF 2216 – Alive but has an uphill battle
- **Tiered Psych Reimbursements** HF 2546 – In the House's HHS Budget bill
- **Telehealth Reimbursements** HF 2245 – In the House's HHS Budget bill
- **Inpatient Psych Beds** HSB 531 – Dead
- **Non-Medical Switching** HF 2199 – Dead
- **MH/DS Funding** SF 2314 – Dead

COVID-19 Legislation

ALIVE

- Off Label Drug Treatments HF 2203

DEAD

- COVID Tests SF 2012
- Vaccine Status on Death Certificates SF 2032
- COVID Hospitals SSB 3035
- Med Standing Order HF 2266
- Vaccine Incentives SSB 3037
- Vaccine Disclosure SF 2052
- No Vaccine Requirements HF 2067
- Vaccine Information SF 2269
- Vaccine Consent SF 2335
- COVID Immunity Proof SF 2030
- Medical Freedom Act HF 2545

HHS Budget Bill (House's Version)

- Passed the House and has not moved in the Senate
- **Bill Includes:**
 - Medicaid increase of \$35.8 million – level funding for hospital rates
 - \$2 million for tiered rates for psychiatric intensive care
 - \$800,000 for rural psychiatric residencies
 - \$1.5 million for the Cost Adjustment Factor for CAHs
 - Continuation of the Provider Tax
 - \$425,000 for the Center of Excellence Program

HHS Budget Bill (House's Version)

- **HHS Bill (con't):**

- Language on state-funded psychiatry residency program
 - “Right to Try” legislation
 - Language requiring U of I College of Medicine accepts at least 75% of students from Iowa or an Iowa college
 - Language requiring UIHC offer interviews for medical residency positions to any applicant with a specialty in a designated field
 - Language on billing for telehealth by out-of-state providers
 - Language on health data privacy
- **Unknown if the Senate will amend the House's bill or develop their own**

Future items to keep an eye on...



Federal Update

Federal Update

- **Sustaining Hospital Operations**

- Extending the Medicare sequester relief until the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency or Dec. 31, 2022, whichever is later.
- Allocating additional Provider Relief Fund dollars
- Protecting the 340B drug savings program

- **Supporting Hospital Workforce**

- Pursuing visa relief for foreign-trained nurses as included in the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.
- Extending and expanding the Conrad State 30 J-1 visa waiver program

Federal Update

- **Transitioning from the Pandemic to an Endemic**
 - Ensuring certain critical 1135 waivers are made permanent
 - Making permanent certain telehealth flexibilities, including lifting geographic and originating site restrictions, expanding practitioners who can provide telehealth.
 - Extending the flexibilities allowing certain acute hospital care to be provided in a patient's home and explore creation of a permanent "hospital-at-home" program.

Stay in the know

- Sign up for the weekly Legislative Bulletin
- Watch the bi-weekly Capitol Update
- Sign up for IHA Action Alerts
- Keep an eye on IHA's Bill Tracker
- Stay in touch with your legislators



Questions?

Erin Cubit

Senior Director, Advocacy

cubite@ihaonline.org