



Nick's News from the  
**Iowa House of Representatives**  
 State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Third General Assembly*  
 Week 7: Feb. 23-26

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**Seventh Week of the 83rd General Assembly**

It has been a very busy week at the State House. On Thursday I, along with the nine new Republican House members introduced GROW, Generating Recovery and Opportunity for Working Iowans, which is a long term economic growth and job creation plan. It is an 8 part plan that includes:

- A Constitutional amendment protecting Iowa's Right to work status
- Expansion of student loan interest deduction
- Creation of shovel-ready permit zones that allow an expedited process for construction of new business
- Creation of telecommuting tax credits to provide employers with credits to cover start-up costs associated with telecommuting
- Creation of Social Security tax deduction for taxpayer share of Social Security tax
- Expansion of the small business Student Internship Program
- Increase and retain the Research Activities Credit
- A freeze in property taxes and residential rollback

I was elected to bring new ideas and provide solutions to the State House and protect the taxpayers. This plan provides solutions to get our economy back on track and makes all Iowans a priority in our state budget.

One piece of the plan that is particularly helpful to businesses and providing jobs is the expansion of the Student Internship Program. The ESCO Group in Marion has been participating in the program with very successful results! Ray Brown, the company's CFO has indicated that in the past year the company has employed three interns through the program. The company has hired two for full time employment and the third has not been hired because they are still a student. The students in this program are from colleges and universities in Iowa, they are provided jobs in Iowa and will stay in Iowa. For more information on the program and to see if your company qualifies visit:

[http://www.iowalifechanging.com/Business/downloads/Innov-Commer\\_Internship.pdf](http://www.iowalifechanging.com/Business/downloads/Innov-Commer_Internship.pdf)

Press release can be found at:

<http://iowahouserepublicans.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/06/grow.pdf>

**Local Recall and Supervisor Pay Legislation**

Earlier in the session there was legislation filed by many of the Linn County Representatives allowing for the recall of local elected officials and allowing County Supervisors the ability to lower their pay without affecting the other elected officials of the county. Unfortunately the bill allowing recall of local officials (HF 205) did not pass out of subcommittee and will not be passed or debated in this session. HF 217 the bill allowing supervisors to lower their pay, received bipartisan support in committee and is now eligible for debate on the house floor. Representative Dick Taylor was instrumental in running this bill through committee and getting it passed. I will continue to update you on this legislation as it progresses. I appreciate all of the emails and calls I received encouraging passage of both bills.

**Proposed Changes to Smoking Ban**

Rep. Jeff Kaufmann and I filed legislation (HF 358) this week to update the smoking ban to treat bars and gaming floors equally. The Smoke free Air Act which was passed in 2008 created a statewide smoking ban with the exception of gaming floors in casinos however bars are subject to the ban. Our bill requires bars and gaming floors be treated the equally. This bill is about basic fairness. When the smoking ban was passed, it created an unfair situation between bars and casinos and this bill corrects that disparity. This bill will no longer give preferential treatment to casinos. Either both casinos and bars would be required to be smokefree or neither would be. The bill has been assigned to the Commerce Committee and subcommittee chaired by Representative Tyler Olson.



**Committee News**

**Commerce**

Consideration of HSB 153 & 154

**Local Government  
(Ranking Member)**

Consideration of  
 HF 159, HSB 157 & 159

**Transportation**

Consideration of:  
 HF 28 & 77 HSB 116

**Ways and Means**

Cancelled

**Bills Passed:**

- HF 314
- HF 414
- SF 51
- SF 52
- SF 101
- SF 217
- SF 218

**For a full text of these bills and any others please visit:**  
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>.  
 Once you are on the site type in the bill number in the quick find search in the upper right hand corner.



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### Prevailing Wage Defeated

Last week's newsletter talked about the prevailing wage bill being proposed. On Friday of last week we debated the bill and it fell one vote short of the 51 votes needed for passage.

In an unprecedented move the Speaker of the House, Pat Murphy left the voting machine open over the weekend in hopes that one of the nay votes would switch to a yea vote allowing passage of the bill. Many house members camped out all weekend in the house chambers. The Speaker finally closed the machine on Monday, February 23, and the bill failed on a 49-49 vote. The majority leader switched to no in order to put a motion to reconsider on the bill, meaning that it is still eligible for debate at a later date.

One of the most egregious aspects of the Democrat plan was making the prevailing wage immediately effective for Linn and Johnson Counties. An amendment was filed to remove this provision of the bill and I supported that amendment because as I have said in previous newsletters I do not believe that now is the right time to raise taxes on those that were affected by the disastrous floods of last year.

I joined all House Republicans and five Democrats in voting against the prevailing wage bill. While the failure of this bill was a major victory for all taxpayers of Iowa, it is far from over. Both the Governor and the Speaker have indicated in news accounts that they will continue pushing for a revival of this legislation. Thank you for all of the emails, letters, cards, and calls on this issue.

### A Tax on a Tax

On February 19, 2009, Iowa Senate Democrats announced the possibility the legislature will move to eliminate an important tax benefit available to Iowans and especially important to low and middle income taxpayers; federal deductibility. The only thing that is certain is that state tax liability on every Iowan will increase if federal deductibility is revoked. Taxpayer advocates and proponents of federal deductibility claim eliminating the law equates to a "tax on a tax". Federal deductibility gives taxpayers the ability to fully deduct 100% of all federal tax payments on state income tax returns. This is extremely important to low and middle class income taxpayers who rent a home or apartment and are unable to deduct property taxes from their income. By the numbers: This bill will cost Iowa Taxpayers a total of \$594,271,459, an average increase of \$437 per household, nearly a 24% increase.

### A Very Special Visitor



Monday, my son Grant stayed with me at the capitol. Even though he found most of the meetings rather boring, he enjoyed the tours of all the nooks and crannies here at the capitol including the top of the dome and the basement! I enjoyed having him here and being able to show him what we do all week!

If you would like to visit the capitol, feel free to contact me and I will help set things up for you.