

## ***Under the Golden Dome, Too***

Week nine has ended with a flurry as we exit the first funnel. I've explained funnel week in the past, so I won't bore you with that. I just reviewed the bills that made it out of committee...a 21 page document. That list is posted on our website: [iowahouserepublicans.com](http://iowahouserepublicans.com). Not all of the bills will see debate on the floor, but those not on the list are likely dead for this year unless there was a bill in the Senate that made the cut. Some of your favorite ideas may be on the list as well as some of your worst fears. Two bills that did not make the cut were ones that I had hoped would get attention.

One bill was filed to require law enforcement to remove all items from any impounded vehicle. I requested this bill in response to the death of Robert Strand, who drank a bottle of water that was left in an impounded car. The police officer's association didn't want the bill, and the chair of the committee, Rep. Jim Lykam, did not bring it up for debate. The other was a bill requiring the courts to take a position on grandparents' involvement in the lives of children who were removed from their parent's care. The chair of that committee, Rep. Kurt Swaim, did not assign the bill to subcommittee work. I will readily admit that either of the bills may have been imperfect, but I went to both chairs and told them I was very willing to work with them to arrive at a bill that was acceptable. Often a bill requires additional work to avoid unintended consequences or to achieve the desired goal. In any case, these were both bills that people in my district cared very much about, and that could have been very good for Iowans. The bills won't be passed this year, but I will try again next year. It is disappointing to see several bills generated by out of state special interest groups get attention ahead of these bills.

As we all continue to struggle with the economy, I want to share what I saw today as I drove around North Iowa. There was lots of traffic on the highways between Hampton and Mason City and between Mason City and Garner. Parking lots were busy. People were heading into stores and restaurants. Iowans are hard-working, optimistic, sharing people. We know times are tough, but we don't let it sap our will to look forward to a bright future. We all have friends and neighbors who have been laid off, struggle with bills, or suffered some hardship. It is a great day to lend a hand, to offer comfort, or share a meal. The biggest benefit is often the feeling of gratitude that you feel when you focus on the needs of someone else.

It was wonderful to see members of AARP, the Child and Family Coalition, and others at the Capitol this week. Continue to contact me at 515-281-3221 or [linda.upmeyer@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:linda.upmeyer@legis.state.ia.us).

I want to share a website a friend shared with me at a forum this morning. It focuses on managing tough times. It provides links with experts for managing money, dealing with stress, and providing low cost meals for a start. Check out [www.extension.iastate.edu/answers](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/answers).