

ECR Legislative Newsletter

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Introduction

Happy New Year and welcome to our first East Central Region (ECR) Legislative Newsletter! We are implementing this bi-weekly newsletter as a response to requests from you, our citizens, to more effectively share information from the Iowa legislative session. This newsletter will be published on our website at www.ecriowa.org every other week, unless legislative activity prompts more frequent communication.

Throughout this legislative session, the East Central Region will be advocating for the legislative priorities that our Regional Governing Board has set. This newsletter will reflect legislative action on those priorities as well as any other legislation that impacts the MH/DS system. Please be aware that our communication around our priorities will be fluid throughout the session, but our priorities themselves will not be changed or amended. If you are interested in communicating about these or other issues that are important to you, please contact your legislators independently. Here is a link to the site that will help you find your respective legislators:
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

Legislative Priorities

Our legislative priorities this year primarily focus on workforce, and we hope that the collective commitment in Iowa on this issue will be effective. If our providers do not have a solid workforce, our citizens won't be able to get the brain health and disability services they need. Here is a link to our priorities, so that you can familiarize yourself with the issues that we as a region will be facing and how we hope our legislators will respond. <https://ecriowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-ECR-Legislative-Priorities.pdf>

Registration

You will notice that the East Central Region registers on various legislative bills as "For, Against, or Undecided". Generally, we register Undecided on a bill when it is introduced and initially considered by the legislature. This gives us more leverage to work with our legislators to constructively amend or change bills. Generally, it does not mean that we have no opinion on a bill – but that we are waiting until the right time to take a definitive stand on the issue.



The Legislative Calendar

- **January 10** – Opening Day of Session in Des Moines
- **February 18** – First funnel deadline
 - Bills introduced in one chamber must receive approval from a full committee in that chamber in order to progress.
- **March 18** – Second funnel deadline
 - During the second funnel, those bills who made it through the first funnel must also pass a floor vote in the chamber where they were introduced, as well as make it through a committee in the opposite chamber.
- **April 19** – The 100th day of session and the end of legislators' per diem stipends

Thank you for your interest in the legislative process and our commitment to brain health and disability services in the East Central Region.



Providing services for 9 Iowa counties:

Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn