

ECR Legislative Newsletter

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Busy Times at the Capitol

Last week was Week 8 of the legislative session. It started with Governor Reynolds enacting the tax bill, House File 2317. Then, she delivered the Republican response to President Biden's State of the Union address.

Busy times continue in Des Moines, as legislators have less than two weeks to get bills through the chambers and various committees to meet the next 'funnel' deadline, which is March 18.

We are hopeful that two pieces of legislation, which advanced last week, will continue to move forward. We are in support of these two pieces of legislation:

HF 2546 is aimed at providing services to persons with complex brain (mental) health needs through a tiered reimbursement rate. This bill requires the Department of Human Services, no later than January 1, 2023, to implement a tiered rate reimbursement methodology for psychiatric intensive inpatient care under the Medicaid program based on the level of patient acuity and other factors as recommended in the Inpatient Bed Tracking Study Committee report submitted to the governor in December 2021.

HF 2549 provides loan repayments for those individuals seeking employment in the Brain (mental) health field. This loan repayment program would assist brain (mental) health practitioners who agree to practice in service commitment areas for at least five years and who meet the requirements of the program.

Now is the Time to Contact Your Legislators

With the 2022 spring session coming to a close in a few weeks, it's an important time to reach out to your legislators to make your voice heard on important brain (mental) health and disabilities issues. Visit the legislative website at www.legis.iowa.gov to find the legislators in your area, and their contact info. Also, you can contact your county auditor and/or the Secretary of State's office at www.sos.iowa.gov. Also, you can find your legislators by:

- Connecting on social media and following them.
- Writing to them via email.
- Visiting your legislators in person at the State Capitol.
- Signing up for their newsletters.
- Attending your legislators' local events when advertised in your area.



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