



Legislative Session Update

Throughout this year, I've been asking folks what our priorities should be here in the legislature. The issues most often mentioned were **affording quality health care, improving educational opportunities for our kids, and concerns about jobs and the economy.** With Session now over, I wanted to give you a **quick update on what we've been able to accomplish.**

Education – Overwhelming support for teachers and students

The Senate made a bipartisan commitment to our students and teachers that increases funding for textbooks, heating bills, technology and other basic needs to ensure a high-quality educational environment. (Senate File 109)

The Legislature leveled the playing field in the battle to recruit and retain the very best teachers for Iowa's students by raising the average pay of an Iowa teacher to 25th in the nation by the 2008 school year. (Senate File 277)

Healthcare – Easing the burden on families and businesses

It is time to get serious about healthcare. This year the Senate moved toward achieving quality, affordable healthcare for Iowans, starting with all children, by 2011. The bill focuses on decreasing health insurance costs by: preventing pre-existing condition exclusions, emphasizing preventative care and allowing for portability of coverage. (House File 2539)

The Legislature also recognized we need to help small business owners by allowing small businesses to work with associations to get a better deal on insurance premiums by pooling their efforts and requiring all insurers to accept a uniform simplified insurance application form. (House File 790, Senate File 346)

Jobs and Economy – Providing tax relief and support for middle class families

The Senate provided \$67.5 million in tax relief for middle class families by making sure those households pay no state taxes on their Federal rebates. (House File 2417)

Iowa's economy must remain strong. The Senate passed legislation to attract new business investment by creating a job training partnership between employers and local community colleges. The Accelerated Career Education (ACE) program ensures Iowa has a highly educated, skilled workforce to attract high-paying jobs. (House File 911)

As always, please call, write or email me should you want any additional information or have a problem or issue I can help with. You can also follow the progress of these bills at www.legis.state.ia.us, or email me at tom.rielly@legis.state.ia.us to receive regular legislative updates.



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State Senator
Tom Rielly

Please feel free to **contact me** **about issues that are important to you.** I look forward to seeing you out in the community this summer.

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