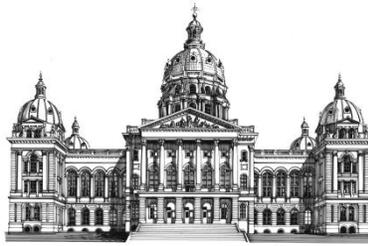


DAN ZUMBACH
STATE SENATOR
Forty-eighth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371



COMMITTEES

Agriculture, Ranking Member
Natural Resources and Environment
Transportation

HOME ADDRESS
2618 – 140th Ave.
Ryan, IA 52330
C: (563) 920-5094
dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov

The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

“FROM THE GROUND UP”
By Senator Dan Zumbach
Week 5

History teaches us many lessons. Last week in the Senate, we voted on the supplemental school aid increase for the FY2016 school year. This is the annual increase in dollars allowed per student. The Legislature sets this increase, which allows school districts to plan for the upcoming year. I realized when I wrote on this issue last week that I did not clarify my position on this bill. This issue affects so many of us. I want to share with you the reason why 6 percent allowable growth will not work.

From 2002 to 2013 (12 years), the Legislature failed to fulfill its promise of allowable growth six times (50 percent). During the 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010 and 2011 years, the Legislature was not able to fund the growth schools as promised. During those years, our schools built budgets around their “promise,” and then had to cut back on staff and or raise property taxes.

It would have been very easy to jump on board to make our schools “feel good” about a 6 percent allowable growth, but my responsibility is to make decisions based on solid information and sound budgeting. We cannot make decisions on what makes people feel good. Poor budgeting has happened under both Democratic and Republican control. These decisions weigh heavily on my mind and heart. I will work hard to put every dollar available toward education. Currently we spend about 40 percent of our state budget on K-12 education. When we add in pre- school and post high school, we spend over 55 percent of our states budget on our children. While the intentions are good, to overpromise and under deliver is not leadership. As a wise person once said, “The smallest deeds done are better than the greatest deeds planned.”

“Houston, we no longer have a problem.” Last week Representative Lee Hein, Trustee Steve Leonard and I drove to Rock Island, Ill. to pick up the phase one permit for reconstruction on the Lake Delhi Dam. This permit allows the bid letting process to begin on the repair of the concrete portion of the dam. These repairs may not be visible because much of this work is inside the old dam. It will also include improved gates and gate control. I will monitor this process closely. If you see any problems, please contact me ASAP so we can resolve these issues smoothly and quickly.

Funnel week is coming up next week, which will end the “non-money bills” coming through the system. Once we are past this deadline, our responsibilities will narrow onto budgeting issues. Next week will be fast paced, however, it is a yearly milestone that needs to be reached.

I am always happy to hear from you. Please forward my newsletter to your friends. The Senate phone number is 515-281-3371. My email address is dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach
Honorably serving District 48