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

“FROM THE GROUND UP”
By Senator Dan Zumbach
Week 16

It is interesting how the fluctuating weather mirrored the Senate’s work again this week. The 2013 session end business creates a hurried feeling one minute and then suddenly a pace hits where time seems to stand still.

The education bill continues to be stalled in conference committee. I’ve decided there must be too much common sense written into the bill; reform, flexibility, and more money. It has everything both parties have been working to achieve. It is hard to comprehend why this unnecessary stall is happening. I commend Speaker Paulsen for offering what the Senate Democrats wanted: 4% more money. Along with that, he offered reform and flexibility moving towards higher student achievement. (What the Republicans wanted). It gets better. This offer is available again the second year, with 4% more money. The Senate Democrats have an opportunity to pass necessary funding for schools. I hope stubbornness doesn’t cloud good policy. A “no” decision on this bill will cripple our schools.

On a second note, a transportation bill passed that will allow drivers to carry their car insurance papers electronically and also be able to apply for their driver’s license electronically. I hope this concept can be implemented soon so drivers no longer have to carry paper copies with them. In the future, it is possible that drivers may not need to carry their registration papers.

The property tax relief bill is stalled in conference committee. The reason for this stall is simple. Republicans want relief for the people, while the Democrats cannot agree with this position.

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.zambuch@legis.iowa.gov.

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach
Honorably serving District 48