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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 Four

I can see, feel, and hear more hustle from the Senate. With funnel week approaching, Senators know their bill of interest must be introduced or it will not be brought up this session. I just realized I have given you an oxy-moron. “Hustle in the Legislature.” I’m smiling as I write this.

The education reform bill is moving through the House of Representatives and being discussed thoroughly. No one knows what will wash out of the new reform at this time. What I do know is some changes will happen and both parties are willing to add resources to support education. As for Senate Republicans, it is all about creating an environment to raise student achievement.

Mental Health continues to be a complicated and difficult area. We are trying very hard to ensure resources, facilities and proper care remain available to those in need, and actually occur. Within this topic is figuring how to couple with the federal government (or not) on expanding Medicaid. This adds a whole new angle on care for the needy. There are short-term benefits in this expansion and long-term liabilities. We are trying to determine true value for our citizens.

Do you remember when you were in Jr. High and someone older told you a scary story? I realized this week you can fall into that same trap as a legislator. It was interesting to watch some of the legislators in a “trance like” state hanging onto every word of presenters at committee meetings. If I believed everything I heard disaster in the state could occur. As we all know that won’t happen. I’m finding that getting across-the-board information is EXTREMELY important, and searching for “the rest of the story” is pertinent.

The Senate certainly has concerns on the health of the state’s people and the environment. I will always hold these issues dear to my heart with the same passion I care for my farm. Please rest assured I will dig deep for accurate and complete information before making a decision.

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

Respectfully
Senator Dan Zumbach,