

Legislative Newsletter

Jan. 18, 2019



88th General Assembly Gavels In

The 88th General Assembly gavelled in Monday. In her second Condition of the State – her first as an elected Governor – Gov. Kim Reynolds emphasized that mental health care will be a significant priority. In addition to seeking sustainable funding and giving local officials flexibility on how funds are spent, the Governor said she will seek appropriations for four psych residencies at the University of Iowa, appropriations for training nurse practitioners in behavioral health, and \$3 million in new money to train Iowa educators to recognize signs of mental illness in children.

Children’s mental health care is another of the Governor’s priorities; her office will be introducing a bill to create a children’s mental health care system and eliminate the waiting list for Home and Community Based Services through a requested appropriation.

The Governor also touched upon restoring felons’ voting rights and other criminal justice reform measures. On Wednesday, Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady called on the Legislature to help the courts integrate more technology, including electronic warrants that can be sent straight to law enforcement in their squad vehicles.

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As for the Legislature, the House Ways and Means Committee indicated they would be looking at property taxes and potential tax credits this year, among other priorities.

Heartland Strategies is looking forward to another session to tackle priorities and working with you. Please contact Larry, Gary, or Meghan with questions or concerns.

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