



Rheumatology
Association of Iowa

Advocacy In Action

2026 Iowa Legislative Session

Seth Brown
Legislative Counsel & Lobbyist

Rheumatology Association of Iowa (RAI)

February 28, 2026



Disclosure Statements

No Relevant Financial Conflicts: Relevant to the content of this educational activity, I do not have any financial conflicts with ineligible companies to disclose.

Overview

- Political Landscape
- 2026 Legislative Priorities
- Session Update
- Other





Political Landscape

Rheumatology Association of Iowa (RAI)

February 28, 2026

2025 Session Activity



91st Iowa General Assembly 2025 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMETABLE*



Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change
*See SCR4 and HR 3 (2023), SR 3 (2019), and SR 113 (2020)

JANUARY 13	First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)
FEBRUARY 14 (Friday of the 5 th week)	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill and joint resolution drafts to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)
MARCH 7 (Friday of the 8 th week)**	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate Committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 17-21 (10 th week)***	Senate considers only Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and unfinished business House considers only House bills, House joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 24 - APRIL 4 (11 th and 12 th weeks)	Debate not limited by rule
APRIL 4 (Friday of the 12 th week)**	Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 7-11 (13 th week)***	Senate considers only House bills, House joint resolutions, and unfinished business House considers only Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
APRIL 14 (Beginning of the 14 th week)	Only the following bills and resolutions are eligible for consideration: (Joint Rule 20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills passed by both Houses • Appropriations Bills • Ways and Means Bills • Government Oversight Bills • Legalizing Acts • Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills • Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [Iowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)] • Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House • Conference Committee Reports • Companion Bills sponsored by Senate and House Majority Leaders • Concurrent or Simple Resolutions • Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules • Bills on the Veto Calendar (Joint Rule 23) • Unfinished Business
APRIL 14 (Beginning of the 14 th week)	House amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate (House Rule 31.8)
MAY 2	110 th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - Iowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)]

**The March 7 and April 4 committee deadlines do not apply to Appropriations Bills, Ways and Means Bills, Government Oversight Bills, Legalizing Acts, Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills, Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [Iowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)], Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House, Conference Committee Reports, Companion Bills sponsored by the Majority Leaders of both Houses after consultation with the respective Minority Leaders, Concurrent or Simple Resolutions, and Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules.
***The week 10 and 13 limitations do not apply to Concurrent and Simple Resolutions, which may be filed and considered at any time during session.
Legislative Information Office: 07/12/2024

2025 Session Activity

- Total Bills Introduced
 - 2300 bills
- Total Enrolled (Passed Legislature)
 - 172 bills
- Total Signed Into Law
 - 170 (2 vetoed)



Rheumatology
Association of Iowa

Session Recap

The Des Moines Register

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025 | THE NEWS IOWA DEPENDS UPON | DESMOINESREGISTER.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. calls to invest in keeping more doctors



Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers the annual Condition of the State address on Jan. 14, 2025. (Photo by Scott O'Brien for the Register)

Boosted loan repayments, additional residency spots proposed as long-term solution to state's doctor shortage

Gov. Kim Reynolds is calling for action to bring more physicians to Iowa as a solution to address the state's medical workforce shortage. Her proposals, revealed during her annual Condition of the State speech Jan. 14, include doubling medical residency spots, more than double funding for loan repayment programs and increasing Medicaid reimbursement for certain health care services.

Leaders at the Iowa Medical Society, the state's largest state association of physicians, are praising the governor's legislative priorities on health care, saying her proposals align with recent calls for action they've made to slow the state's growing shortage of physicians. "It looks like we're very much on the same page as the governor, and we really look forward to working with the Legislature," said Dr. Christine Taylor, president of the Iowa Medical Society and chief medical officer of value-based care at Covad Health. "We've got some proposed solutions, so let's move forward on this and craft these programs together."

See DOCTORS, Page 2A

Refugees expected in Iowa on

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced a plan to use \$250 million in federal funds to create 25 new medical residency spots in Iowa each year for the next four years. The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services would administer the program in partnership with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Rosalind Franklin Medical Center in Des Moines, ultimately resulting in 100 new physicians being trained in the state, Reynolds said. "We support the governor's intent to bolster health care and appreciate the attention she is giving to



Medical students, The Win, 20, Say Poo, 16, and Day Ma Mahooly, 16, from Thailand, perform during central Iowa's immigrant and refugee communities welcoming week hosted by Polk County and Des Moines Water Works at the Northwest Community Center on Sept. 14, 2023. (Photo by Scott O'Brien for the Register)

HF 972

Health Care

PASSED



Session Recap

HF 303 Prior Authorization

- Summary
 - 48 hour response for
 - 10 calend
 - requer
 - Utilization
 - IID comp authority
 - Expanded training requirements
- Passed and signed

PASSED



Session Recap



PASSED

SF 383 PBM Reform Managers (PBM)

- Summary of key provisions:
 - Dispensing Fee: Eliminates the 6% dispensing fee, which is a significant cost for patients.
 - Steering: Bars PBMs from steering patients to affiliated pharmacies through different cost-sharing.
 - Specialty Drug Designations: Prevents 'specialty drug' designation to limit access.
 - Rebate pass-through: Requires 100% of rebates be passed on to carriers or plan sponsors.
- Passed and signed
- Lawsuits pending

House of Representatives



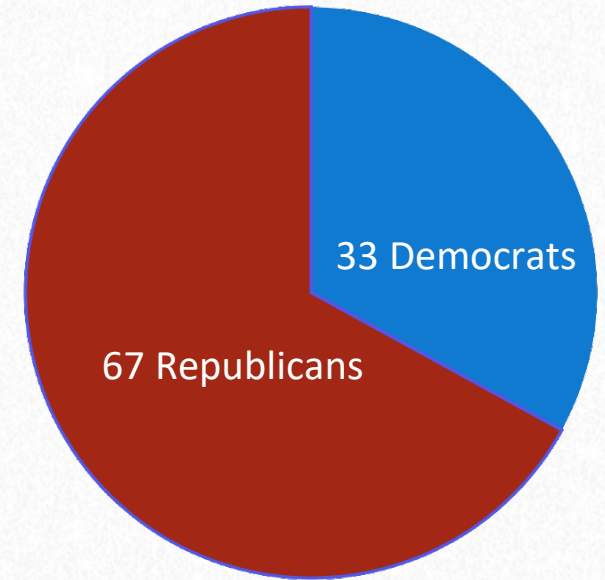
**Majority Leader
Bobby Kaufmann**



**Speaker
Pat Grassley**



**Minority Leader
Brian Meyer**



House of Representatives

Key Committee Chairs



HHS Chair
Austin Harris



HHS Budget Chair
Ann Meyer



Commerce Chair
David Young

Senate



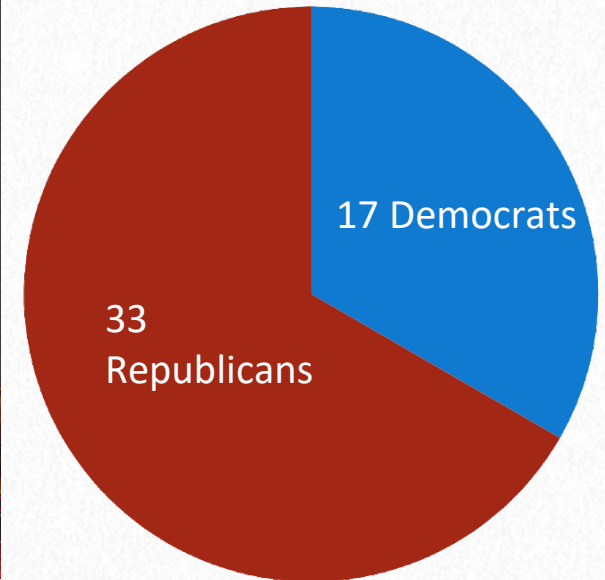
**Majority Leader
Mike Klimesh**



**President
Amy Sinclair**



**Minority Leader
Janice Weiner**



Senate

Key Committee Chairs



HHS Chair
Kara Warme



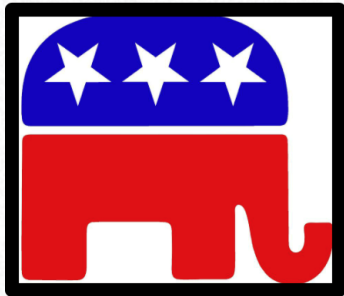
HHS Budget Chair
Mark Costello



Commerce Chair
Mike Busselot

Trifecta ≠ Agreement

Governor

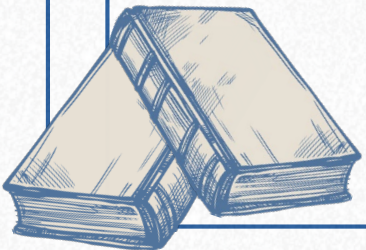


House
100 Members

Senate
50 Members

2026 Governor's Race

- Current Governor Kim Reynolds said that she is not running for reelection in 2026
- Her announcement made the 2026 governor's race the first open race since 2006
- Both parties will hold primaries June 2nd, 2026 to decide their nominees





2026 Legislative Priorities

Rheumatology Association of Iowa (RAI)

February 28, 2026

Medicaid Forecast

- **State Medicaid Projections**
 - \$75.9 million deficit (FY26)
 - \$180.7 million deficit (FY27)
- **HR 1 (BBB)**
 - \$137 billion cut to rural hospitals

Rural Health Transformation Program

- **H.R. 1 – “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA)**
 - Creates \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)
 - State application process to access funds
 - Iowa seeking up to \$1 billion over five years (\$200 million annually)
 - Competitive RFP process
 - CMS announces state awardees December 31
 - *Legislation expected to support RHTP application*



Priority Issues

- **Utilization Management Reform**

- Step therapy
- Accumulator, maximizer & alternative funding programs
- Non-medical switching
- Prior authorization
- Gold carding

- **Specialty Pharmacy Mandates**

- White Bagging/Brown Bagging
- Home infusion

- **Drug Pricing & Affordability**

- Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform
- Rebate pass through
- Prescription Drug Affordability Boards

- **Access**

- Biomarker Testing





Session Update

Rheumatology Association of Iowa (RAI)

February 28, 2026

Session Timeline



91st Iowa General Assembly 2026 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMETABLE*



Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change

*See HCR 5, SR 6, and HR 5 (2025)

JANUARY 12	First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)
JANUARY 23 (Friday of the 2 nd week)	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill and joint resolution drafts to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)
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FEBRUARY 23-27 (7 th week)**	Senate considers only Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and unfinished business House considers only House bills, House joint resolutions, and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
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APRIL 6 (Beginning of the 13 th week)	House amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate (House Rule 31.8)
APRIL 21	100 th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - Iowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)]

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Legislative Information Office: 07/09/2025

2026 Session Significant Dates

- First day
January 12, 2026
- IMS Physician Day on the Hill
February 17, 2026
- Funnel Deadlines
First – February 20, 2026
Second – March 20, 2026
- Last day (“Sine Die”)
Day 100 – April 21, 2026



2026 Session By the Numbers



91st Iowa General Assembly 2026 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMETABLE*



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 Legislative Information Office: 07/09/2025

2026 Session Activity

- Week 6 – First Funnel
- Total House Bills Introduced
 - 2026: 439 HFs, 140 HSBs (779)
 - 2025: 420 HFs, 180 HSBs (600)
- Total Senate Bills Introduced
 - 2026: 335 SFs, 168 SSBs (503)
 - 2025: 319 SFs, 127 SSBs (446)



Notable Bills

- **Medicaid Physician Reimbursement**
- **SF 2421 / HF 2635 Insurance Reform (Support)**
- **HF 2434 Physician Referral Coverage (Support)**
- **SF 2184 / HF 2545 Physician Licensure (Support)**
- **HF 2056 Ivermectin/Hydroxychloroquine Mandatory Dispensing (Dead)**
- **HF 2287 Vaccine Manufacturer Liability Immunity (Dead)**
- **SF 2211 / HF 2368 Iowa Medical Freedom Act (Dead)**
- **HF 2171 Eliminating Vaccine Requirements for Students (Survived funnel)**
- **HSB 704 Medication Abortion (Survived funnel)**
- **HF 2332 Feticide (Dead)**
- **HF 2316 Unborn Child Wrongful Death (Dead)**
- **HF 2676 Governor's MAHA Package**



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Questions?

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