



Capitol Comments

Newsletter from your
Iowa State Representative
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State Capitol
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Newton's First Law of Motion and the Iowa Budget

Newton's first law of motion, also called the law of inertia, states an object will continue its motion at a constant velocity until an outside force acts on it. State spending over the past four years is like Newton's object – it continues in motion until an outside force acts on it. The increase in state spending by over \$1 billion over the last four years was unprecedented, not to mention unsustainable. As the new majority in the House, we are trying to be the outside force in Newton's law applied to the budget and slow state spending. A primary concern of Iowans, as noted from the November election, is aligning state spending with revenue.

The Founders of our nation realized 200 years ago that government is “a conglomerate of human beings who have within their basic nature the instinct to continuously expand whatever power is placed in their hands” (from The Making of America). We must work to reduce the size and scope of state government or it will continuously grow. Resisting this trend is not easy. Failure will result in an unsustainable tax burden or eventual erosion of state priorities like public safety, education, and human services.

Although the Des Moines media market has focused on the few controversial social issues addressed in the House, the primary work being done, which remains largely unreported, is the work being done to build a sustainable budget. In addition, we are trying to provide Iowans with the ability to easily review what the state spends and we want to monitor whether programs are really necessary or merely continue to exist year after year as though Newton's law of motion applied.

Jobs and the Economy

If you are expecting House Republicans to approve another version of Chet Culver's "I-JOBS" or some type of stimulus or bailout bill you will be disappointed. The only jobs government creates well - are more government jobs. Small businesses are the primary source of new jobs. Small manufacturers are the most critically needed businesses. Creating an environment for these businesses to flourish is a priority. Studies show that states with lower tax rates see more job growth and population increase. Our northwestern Iowa friends see the reality of low tax states as more people move from Sioux City to South Dakota.

The Iowa House recently approved House File 194, which provides broad income tax relief for Iowa families who continue to see an increase in cost of living. This is the first attempt to provide broad tax relief to Iowa families since 1997. The bill, which passed with bipartisan support, may provide a needed boost to the Iowa economy, including Iowa's small business owners. The Governor, the House and the Senate are working to find the right balance of broad based tax relief, regulatory relief and a smaller government that spends less. It is hoped this work will create an environment where business can thrive and the number of jobs can expand.

Newton's Second Law of Motion and Iowa Education

Newton's second law states that a body of mass subject to a force undergoes an acceleration. The Governor's pre-school proposal has now been released. The proposal ensures that economically disadvantaged children can attend the preschool of their choice which will have strong educational standards. It supports both public school-based programs and community-based programs at an economically sustainable level. It finds support from local superintendents who have communicated with me.

The discussions between the House, the Senate and the Governor's office continue with respect to the annual increase for our public schools (the allowable growth). At the end of the day the schools will be funded. Pre-schools, funding and the good work of our teachers will be that Newtonian force which will accelerate our children's progress and launch them toward a bright future.