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## Under the Golden Dome, Too

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors!

It has been another extremely busy week at the Legislature as we get ready for the upcoming bills debate. There are a lot of new bills in the works. Please feel free to follow the process on the legislative website as well as in the public news arena to see how things are progressing.

The Government Reorganization Bill (Senate File 2088) is going to have a major impact on all of us in one way or another. To save additional funds, House Republicans have offered 14 ideas that will save taxpayers \$290 million in General Fund dollars.

1. Eliminate Power Fund and Office of Energy Independence - \$25 million
2. Eliminate the RIO office, give responsibilities to Homeland Security - \$1 million
3. Eliminate taxpayer-funded lobbyists - \$4 million
4. Cancel all Board of Regents sabbaticals for FY 2011 - \$6 million
5. End all state benefits to illegal immigrant adults - \$92.3 million
6. Shift voluntary preschool responsibilities to Empowerment - \$45 million
7. Combine administrative functions at Regents universities – \$62 million
8. Eliminate funding for empty shelter care beds - \$2 million
9. Delay implementation of core curriculum for one year - \$10.5 million
10. Eliminate the family planning waiver - \$2 million
11. Sell and completely privatize the state vehicle fleet – \$18 million
12. Sell or lease the Iowa Communications Network - \$15 million
13. Cut funding office supplies, service contracts, equipment purchases - \$5 million
14. Eliminate the Just Eliminate Lies (JEL) program - \$2.25 million

### More thoughts . . . . .

As tax credits and deductions are reviewed during the 2010 session, Republicans are proposing that the beneficiaries of any “savings” to the state treasury should be the taxpayers through broad-based tax relief.

When a tax credit is capped or eliminated, someone else’s taxes go up. With the current economy and job situation, the Republicans oppose raising taxes.

In 2009, Governor Culver and legislative Democrats approved legislation that put our citizens \$1.7 billion in debt.

In 2010, the Governor’s budget cuts tax credits by \$52.5 million but does not specify what credits should be cut; Democrats have been passed this responsibility.

To balance the budget in 2010, Governor Culver proposes using a large portion of the state’s emergency fund. If we use this to balance the budget, it will not be available for future use when needed.

Finally, Iowa families must live within their means and the State of Iowa should be no different.