



MINUTES

International Relations Committee

Monday, April 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Annette Sweeney, Chairperson
Senator Kevin Alons (by teleconference)
Senator Nate Boulton
Senator William A. Dotzler Jr.

Representative Eddie Andrews, Vice Chairperson
Representative Thomas D. Gerhold
Representative Elinor A. Levin
Representative Brad Sherman
Representative Mark I. Thompson

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I. Procedural Business

Call to Order and Adjournment. The meeting of the International Relations Committee was called to order by Chairperson Sweeney at 11:02 a.m., April 15, 2024, in Room 116 of the State Capitol, Des Moines. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

II. Presentation By Iowa International Center

Ms. Patricia Grote, Executive Director, Iowa International Center, and Ms. Hannah Huisman, International Visitor Program Manager, Iowa International Center (center) presented about the duties and responsibilities of the center. The center was created in 1938 to welcome refugees escaping Europe. The center today connects individual, communities, and organizations in Iowa and around the world, creates opportunities to remove language and cultural barriers, and creates a global community by building pathways for all to prosper. Ms. Grote noted the center is very involved in the International Visitor Exchange Program (program). The program involves bringing international groups to the United States to learn and discuss foreign policy, government, and economics. The program has an economic impact on this state and promotes national security and mutual understanding. The center also is involved with the newly created Iowa Partner States Program (formerly the Iowa Sisters States Program).

III. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency

The following materials were distributed at or in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the link on the committee's website: www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/documents?committee=661&ga=ALL.

1. Iowa International Center — Handout