

Comment Report

HF 2384

A bill for an act relating to the future ready Iowa Act and other efforts to strengthen Iowa's workforce, including a child care challenge program for working Iowans, a workforce diploma pilot program, computer science instruction, work-based learning coordinators, and the senior year plus program, and including applicability provisions. (Formerly HSB 607.)

Subcommittee Members: Mohr, G.-CH, Brink, Hall, Running-Marquardt, Sorensen

Date: 06/03/2020

Time: 11:15 AM

Location: RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber

First Name	Last Name	Company	Phone	Email
Nicole	Proesch	Iowa Hospital Association	515-321-8740	proeschn@ihaonline.org
Comment	The Iowa Hospital Association is registered in support of this bill. In particular we are in favor of the child care challenge program and the provision s supporting the workforce. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.			
William	Meyer	Trinity Lutheran School	5633225224	bill.meyer@trinitydavenport.org
Comment	As an administrator of a nonpublic school I cannot support this bill. It is an unfunded mandate. This is a problem for a nonpublic as we do not have access to funding provided by the state tax dollars. I'm not even sure this is a good time to add another thing to the plates of our public schools. Please do not support this legislation in it's current form.			
Sheila	Hansen	Child and Family Policy Center		shansen@cfpciowa.org
Comment	Iowa Child care Challenge Fund page 4 Division 2 line 9We recommend adding "in consultation with the Early Childhood Iowa Board" so it reads like this:An Iowa employer innovation fund is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under the control of the department of workforce development, in consultation with the workforce development board and the Early Childhood Iowa Board.We believe it is important to have an early childhood/child care voice at the table when making decisions about quality affordable child care Thank you for your consideration.			
Tom	Chapman	Iowa Catholic Conference	5157701831	tom@iowacatholicconference.org
Comment	Thank you for your efforts to strengthen Iowa's workforce.1. We appreciate the inclusion of Division II, the Child Care Challenge Fund, which should help increase the availability of quality options for child care in the state.2. Regarding Division IV, Computer Science Instruction, the bill adds a requirement for schools to add computer science instruction in at least one grade level during elementary school, one grade level during middle school, and adds a requirement for a half unit of computer science instruction during high school.Most Catholic schools already have these courses, but our concern is that adding any new course mandates during the school day necessarily has to take away from something else. Some other course area or elective has to give way. At least one high school is shortening class periods to create another period in part because of other recentlyadded mandates. We would appreciate removing the "offer and teach" mandate.			
Joe	Murphy	Iowa Business Council		jmurphy@iowabusinesscouncil.org

Comment The Iowa Business Council is supportive of HF2384 to strengthen Iowas workforce. In light of COVID19, the framework and foundation of Future Ready Iowa is critical to enable Iowans to reenter the workforce. Child care assistance through the Child Care Challenge program will be especially helpful in returning working parents to employment. Additionally, programs like the Employer Innovation Fund and Last Dollar Scholarship have seen incredible outcomes in the past year. They provide the structure for Iowans to upskill into high demand jobs.

Anne Roth Iowa Business Council 5153142705 aroth@iowabusinesscouncil.org

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Margaret Buckton Urban Education Network and Rural School Advocates of Iowa 515.201.3755 margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com

Comment When we were last discussing this bill in late February, both UEN and RSAI members would support the bill including mandate of computer science with addition of an amendment to allow local control to decide how best to offer courses for which finding teachers is challenging or for which an online learning environment is ideal, such as world languages (256.11 subsection 5.f), financial literacy (256.11 subsection 5.k) and the new proposed computer science online. We also support changes to section 20 regarding Senior Year Plus post secondary enrollment, to maintain the parttime limitation of such enrollment, but to create an exception for local school boards working in partnership with their community colleges and the private sector to allow for fulltime enrollment under certain circumstances. With these two changes, both organizations will be supportive.

Emily Piper Iowa Association of School Boards 5152027772 emily@ialobbyresources.com

Comment We are supportive of this bill in general but do ask that the computer science requirement be delayed for one year as boards and districts are already challenged to provide alternative learning environments under the current situation. We also ask that language be included that would provide the opportunity for districts to exceed the cap on the number of classes offered online to accommodate challenges that districts might face with finding qualified instructors.

Jenny Klein Iowa Economic Development Authority 515-360-2209 jennifer.klein@iowaeda.com

Comment IEDA supports this bill, especially the apprenticeship component. This bill would support smaller apprenticeship programs in the state that do not fit well within the 15B program, so they can continue to grow and support Iowa's workforce.