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## --Week 4 of the 90th General Assembly--

Dear {Contact\_First\_Name},

Last week was a blur of fast moving bills. We saw bills get introduced, assigned, and subcommittees held within a day or two. The perennial issue of raw milk sales saw a return last week. [SSB 1107](#) was introduced on the 31st, and passed out of subcommittee on the February 1st. Raw milk can be contaminated with a variety of human pathogens and create a serious health risk, especially in children, pregnant individuals, and older adults. Per CDC, the rate of disease is 2.2 times higher in states that allow raw milk sales than those that do not, and 59% of the disease burden is borne by children under 5. As in the past, IPHA has registered against this bill.

IPHA also attended the subcommittee meeting on [SF 83](#), a bill that would prohibit teaching about gender identity and allow parents to file suit against teachers/schools that they feel violated the law (if passed). The time was filled with emotional testimony and IPHA did not have the opportunity to speak. What we've shared elsewhere, however, is that transgender and gender non-conforming youth are overrepresented in rates of harassment, physical assault, sexual violence, suicide, homelessness and more. Many of these negative health outcomes can be reduced by policies that promote safe and trusting environments.

This week is expected to be full of discussions on tort reform. This is not an area we follow, but what it means for us is that the bills we are watching may slow down a bit. No guarantees, so we continue to have conversations with legislators on our issues.

**Want to be involved with these conversations?** Join us at [Public Health Day on the Hill](#) on February 28th and/or [Iowa Immunizes Day on the Hill](#) on February 13th.

Here is a quick summary of the bills we have declared a position on this past week. See the full list of bills we are watching on the IPHA bill tracker, linked below, or find past advocacy updates on the IPHA website.

- [SSB 1105](#) - Against - Relating to public assistance program oversight
  - Similar, but not linked to HF 3
  - Asset testing creates a cliff effect for SNAP beneficiaries; penalized for saving money for emergency expenses, purchases or life events, saving for children's education, etc.
- [SSB 1107](#) - Against - Relating to raw milk...
  - Submitted by State Government Chair, Jason Schultz; already passed sub-committee
  - Allows for the direct from dairy sale of raw milk.
  - Requires labeling and animal testing
  - Prohibits sale at farmers markets or similar establishment
- [HF 166](#) - Against - Relating to vaccines, including modifying provisions related to a minor's legal capacity to give consent

to a minor's legal capacity to give consent...

- Removes from current law the ability for minors to consent to HPV vaccination as medical care for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections
- Removes HPV and vaccine education from the mandated school health curriculum

[Legislative Update from LS2](#) (IPHA's contract lobbyist firm, sent to all clients)

[IPHA bill tracker](#) (updated 2/2/2023\*)

[IPHA 2023 Policy Platform](#)

\*Our bill tracker is updated every Friday, so the most up-to-date way of seeing what bills we have declared a position on is on the [IPHA declarations](#) page as part of our lobbyist report.

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Regardless of the formal IPHA position on a bill, we always encourage you to contact your legislators and/or the Governor's office on any issue you are passionate about. Make sure you know who your legislators are and how to contact them, check it all out on the [Find Your Legislator](#) page.

The [APHA Policy Statement Database](#) is a great place to look for literature reviews and recommended actions on a broad range of public health topics. Below are a few relevant to the bills we are watching.

#### Raw Milk

- [Compulsory Pasteurization of All Non-Human-Derived Animal Milk Products Intended for Human Consumption](#)

#### Public Health Authority

- [Preserving Public Health Capacity by Protecting the Workforce and Authority](#)
- [Addressing Threats to Public Health Practice](#)

#### Maternal Health

- [Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Birthing People to One Year Postpartum](#)
- [A Global Call to Action to Improve Health Through Investment in Maternal Mental Health](#)

#### Gender Identity & LGBTQ Health

- [Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices](#)
- [A Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention within a Public Health Framework](#)
- [Sexual and Gender Minority Demographic Data: Inclusion in Medical Records, National Surveys, and Public Health Research](#)
- [Sexuality Education as Part of a Comprehensive Health Education Program in K to 12 Schools](#)

While the focus of our advocacy efforts will center upon [IPHA's 2023 Policy Platform](#), if there are bills that you would like IPHA to consider that you don't see on the list, please share those with the IPHA team. If you have questions on the positions or tactics we are taking on any piece of legislation, please contact [Lina](#),

the [Advocacy Committee](#), or a member of the [Board of Directors](#).

Thanks for all you do!

Your Advocacy Committee Co-chairs,  
*Sydney Evans & Christy Roby*

**Together, we are the voice for public health in Iowa!**

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