

Last week the legislature was dominated by floor debate on bills that passed the prior week's funnel. One piece of legislation that has received significant public involvement is [SF 538](#), the bill that bans gender affirming care for minors. It was passed by both the House & Senate and now goes to the Governor's desk for her signature. If she signs it, which she is predicted to do, health care providers in Iowa would be banned from providing puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries to minors regardless of parental consent. Minors already receiving care have 180 days to discontinue treatment.

[SF 496](#) is the only remaining bill that strikes the requirement for HPV and the availability of a vaccine, and AIDS to be taught in grades 7-12. The language is considered inclusive, meaning that these subjects may be taught, but are no longer required. This bill still prohibits the discussion or instruction of gender identity, including the inclusion of gender identity in surveys, in elementary grades. It also requires parents/guardians to be notified immediately if a student expresses a gender identity different from that which is on their birth certificate.

Going forward we will be particularly watching for amendments and budget impacts. As we look at the bills that are being debated and passed, many of us feel disheartened at the threats to public health and individuals we know and love. Remember that making bills less bad is still good and worthy of your advocacy. Thank you for your response to our recent advocacy alerts; it's making a difference.

View our full bill tracker [here](#), or search for specific bills that IPHA has declared on [here](#).