

ICADV STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 2024

The 90th General Assembly adjourned in the early hours of April 20. This was the final year of the two-year session that began with a significant number of new faces, i.e., almost one-third of legislators were newly elected to their seats in 2022. The following will summarize the 2024 session but like last year, legislators advanced a long list of policies we believe will leave many lowans and survivors worse off.

Following the overview below is a select list of bills ICADV was monitoring that were signed or waiting to be signed into law and then a detailed list of select bills ICADV tracked this session. But check out all-inclusive summaries from the [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#), [Des Moines Register](#), and [Cedar Rapids Gazette](#), for information on all policies considered and enacted.

OVERVIEW

Victim Services funding: We were deeply disappointed [HF 2693](#), the Justice System budget did not include an urgently needed increase for victim services – funding remains at \$5 million as it has each of the last ten years. Truthfully- your efforts were not wasted, thank you for being magnificent. Although legislators continue to promise to find funding to mitigate the impact of the massive loss in federal FY24 VOCA funding, the actual win was your outreach that enabled House Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Lohse (R-45) to propose an increase in the House bill- the first in a decade. Although it was minor and even that did not prevail- he doubled-down on his commitment to continue to pursue these efforts and we will build on the relationships you helped solidify. Here is link to Senate [debate video](#); House [debate video](#). Since it is always up to the Majority Party to pass budget bills, the final votes are not a good indication of support/opposition because these bills include funding for a broad range of stakeholders. The amendments offered by Rep. Ross Wilburn (D), Sen. Sarah Trone-Garriott, and Sen. Janet Petersen (D) to provide \$10 m for victim services and/or ensure victim compensation reimbursed the cost of emergency compensation (EC) for rape victims- were all defeated on party line votes, i.e., all Democrats supported, and all Republicans opposed.

Policy bills: Compounding the bad news on funding, legislators also failed to advance our two priority housing bills. [HF 547](#), **Early Lease Termination** and [HF 548](#) **Eviction Expungement** both sailed through the House in 2023 with unanimous support, but we could not convince a handful of Senators blocking them from advancing further. After last year's focused attack on LGBTQ lowans and reproductive rights, this year was remarkable in the broad scope of hateful and unnecessary policy proposals we believe leave lowans less safe as well as enabling discrimination by targeting communities disproportionately impacted by violence. Truth be told, there were not many bright spots this year in terms of proactive policy but at least several bad policy bills did not advance.

New Iowa laws passed this year include [SF 2095](#), a sweeping **religious exemption** proposal undermining Iowa's robust civil rights law by allowing anyone to use religious beliefs as justification to discriminate. Discrimination is a root cause of gender violence and ICADV strongly opposed this bill. [HF 2586](#) allows public school teachers and employees to carry **guns in schools** and [SF 2340](#) pre-empts federal **immigration** law by allowing local law enforcement to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants. This law threatens survivors' access to federal protections against abuse (U & T visas) and actively discourages all immigrants from calling police when in danger. Des Moines [Police Chief Dana Wingert](#) said local law enforcement does not have the capacity or desire to do what this law requires, stating that it violates industry standards and best practice that prioritize meeting the needs of lowans calling for help regardless of status and undermines police efforts to build trust in immigrant communities.

Although [SF 2251](#), a new law expanding **Medicaid coverage** for women and infants from 60 days to 12 months is a policy ICADV strongly supports, we were frustrated that the tradeoff for the added benefit was limiting eligibility to fewer lowans. Thankfully, legislators soundly rejected [SSB 3175](#) a proposal to **criminalize homeless** lowans, but the cruelty of the rhetoric shaming low-income lowans by supporters of [HF 2319](#), a new law prohibiting counties from implementing **guaranteed income** pilot projects like UpLift in Polk & Warren counties was insulting to working families, including survivors who benefit greatly from a boost to their economic security when leaving a violent relationship means losing economic security and the means to regain it. And the failure of Governor Reynolds to accept millions in federal **Summer EBT** food assistance funds to enable school children to have local access to food during the summer is stubbornly irresponsible. Most survivors fleeing a violent relationship need support to feed their children and having additional support for children during the summer months that does not involve having to drive to feeding sites is important to survivors. And then adding insult to the injury of the failure of policies and budget proposals to address the needs of crime victims, the rhetoric of legislators supporting [SF 2096](#) **repealing gender balance** requirements on appointed boards and commissions and [SF 2385](#) restricting the authority of the **Iowa Civil Rights Commission**, was offensive and gravely concerning. These new laws contradict the reality that discrimination is alive and well. Failing to prioritize advancing equity is harmful to collective efforts to end and prevent violence.

Legislators care about crime victims but reasonable minds disagree about the most effective ways to do that. The impact of gender violence also means many victims are wrongly accused, arrested, and ultimately incarcerated for fighting their victimization or committing crimes because of their victimization. The failure to acknowledge this continues to frustrate genuine efforts at reform and results in persistently pursuing ineffective responses to violence. The Senate failed to vote on [HF 349](#), a **probation reform** bill offering a commonsense proposal to incentivize offenders working to become contributing members of their families and communities that passed the House 93-1 in 2023. Several bills will become law that increase criminal penalties or prison time for violent crime. Although we do not believe this response is effective at deterring or preventing violence some include provisions that can improve the legal system response for victims. [HF 2460](#) increasing prison time for individuals convicted of **human trafficking** also includes a provision ICADV strongly supports that protects victim advocate confidentiality when supporting human trafficking victims. [HF 2098](#), enhances penalties for committing assault while subject to criminal or civil **protection orders** is well-intentioned, but we remain concerned this will undermine efforts to get offenders to plead guilty as well as undermine efforts by county attorneys to bolster the impact of civil protection orders.

So, we remain frustrated by policymakers continuing to pursue responses that are not informed by the experience of victims and the service providers supporting them. However, we were grateful for the failure of proposals claiming to improve the system for victims by undermining **defendant rights** ([SF 2349](#), [HF 2616](#).) We supported several provisions of these initiatives, but ICADV strongly opposed these bills because they would eliminate the ability of survivor defendants to have a fair trial and the opportunity for post-conviction relief which is essential to survivors serving prison sentences. Upholding fundamental principles of justice requires that we support the rights of *all* victims – those who are witnesses for the prosecution and those who are defendants.

BILLS SIGNED OR WAITING TO BE SIGNED INTO LAW (select list)

Child sex abuse – Boy Scouts: SF 2431 removes the statute of limitations on legal action for child sex abuse cases specifically for victims involved in the Boy Scouts of American settlement.

Religious exemption – enables discrimination: [SF 2095](#) religious exemption allowing anyone to use their religious beliefs as justification to discriminate, i.e., opt out of abiding by non-discrimination laws. Also known as Religious Freedom Restoration Act or RFRA. *(ICADV opposed)*

Guns in Schools: [HF 2586](#) allows teachers and school employees to carry guns at school; provides qualified immunity and confidentiality for school employees carrying guns. *(ICADV opposed)*

Anti-immigrant – creates new ‘illegal re-entry’ crime: [SF 2340](#) preempts federal immigration law by creating a new state crime of ‘illegal re-entry’ allowing local law enforcement to arrest undocumented individuals who were previously denied entry into the US, including survivors of gender violence waiting on a final determination re federal law protections for undocumented survivors. *(ICADV opposed)*

Protection orders: [HF 2098](#) enhances penalty for committing assault while subject to a criminal no contact order or civil protection order. *(ICADV undecided)*

Human Trafficking: [HF 2460](#) reduces earned time for people convicted of human trafficking; includes a provision to protect victim advocate confidentiality. *(ICADV undecided)*

Bans Guaranteed Income programs: [HF 2319](#) prohibits counties from implementing guaranteed income programs like UpLift in Polk & Warren counties. *(ICADV opposed)*

Medicaid expansion for 12-month coverage post-partum: [SF 2251](#) expands coverage from 60 days to 12 months but reduces eligibility for coverage for all. *(ICADV undecided)*

Gender Equity: [SF 2096](#) repeals gender balance requirements on appointed boards, commissions, and councils. *(ICADV opposed)*

Restrict authority of Iowa Civil Rights Commission: SF 2385 eliminates, merges, changes, and creates various boards and commissions. The enormous bill is a part of a massive reorganization of state government. Included in the bill is a provision undermining the role and restricting the authority of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission by combining the individual commissions for underrepresented populations into a single board and allowing the board to serve solely in an advisory role with no authority to implement state action. *(ICADV did not declare.)*

Crisis Pregnancy Centers: [SF 2252](#) provides funding for centers and reduces criteria for community organizations to participate in the MOMS program in a way that undermines safety and access to support for pregnant Iowans. *(ICADV undecided)*

Guns for County Attorneys: [HF 2570](#) allows county attorneys to be issue a professional permit to carry gun. *(ICADV did not declare.)*

ICADV 2024 BILL TRACKER (select summary)

Below is a selected list from bills ICADV monitored this year. Descriptions indicate the latest legislative action- bills highlighted in yellow indicate those that are signed or going to be signed into law by Governor Reynolds. This was the final year of the two-year session so bills that did not advance are legislatively 'dead', i.e., after the 2024 General Election in November the 91st Iowa General Assembly will convene in January 2025 and legislators must introduce new bills or re-introduce bills they support.

**FOR, AGAINST, UNDECIDED indicate ICADV's 'registered' position on a bill. Anyone can talk to state legislators but registered lobbyists who wish to speak at subcommittees must 'register' (declare) a position on the legislature website. We do not register on every bill we monitor but to see how any organization is registered on a bill, click [here](#), enter the bill number, and on the left-hand side in the "Related Information" section, click "Lobbyist Declarations."*

HOUSING

[HF 547](#) FOR – allows victims of violent crime to **terminate a lease early** if provide landlords written notice and documentation of harm, e.g., domestic abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, elder abuse. Passed House 94-0 in 2023. Senate Judiciary did not consider in 2024.

[HF 548](#) FOR- **eviction sealing**- provides process for sealing record of eviction filing if tenant was never evicted (not guilty) or if eviction happened long ago. Passed House 95-0 in 2023. Senate Judiciary did not consider in 2024.

[SSB 3175](#) AGAINST - **criminalizes homelessness** and takes funds away from DV providers and Housing First initiatives and directs them to pay for state sponsored 'encampments' intended for unsheltered homeless people. Failed to advance out of Local Government subcommittee.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

[HF 2319](#) (HSB 552) AGAINST – prohibits counties from implementing **guaranteed income programs**. Passed [House 55-43](#); passed [Senate 35-13](#); sent to Governor to sign into law.

[HF 2022](#) FOR – provides an appropriation for the **double up food program** that allows families to access fresh fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets to supplement nutrition assistance programs. Introduced. Introduced.

[HF 2557](#) (HSB 662) FOR – **paid parental leave for state employees**. Approved by House State Government Committee.

[SF 2039](#), HF 2140, HF 2042 FOR – requires Iowa DHHS and Education to submit application to federal government to participate in **Summer EBT** food assistance program for school age children. Introduced.

GUNS

[HF 2586](#) AGAINST – allows school employees to carry guns, establishes a school security personnel grant. Passed [House 62-36](#); passed [Senate 30-14](#); signed into law.

HF 2461/[SF 543](#) *AGAINST* – (HF 654) **gun omnibus** allows carrying a firearm in school vehicles with students present if directed by district personnel; allows guns and ammunition in personal vehicles in school parking lots and driveways; prohibits public universities and community colleges from banning guns and ammo locked in vehicles on school grounds; allows guns in casinos; requires schools to provide gun safety training using instructional materials from the NRA (HF 654 only); also prohibits employers from banning guns and ammo inside a locked car on the premises. HF 654 passed House 62-37 in 2023; no Senate action in 2024.

[HF 2130](#), SF 2085 *FOR* – criminal background checks for gun purchases. Introduced.

[HF 2129](#) *FOR* – funding for gun violence prevention study. Introduced.

LGBTQ RIGHTS/HEALTH/EDUCATION

[SF 2095/HF 2454](#) *AGAINST* – **religious exemption** allowing anyone to use their religious beliefs as justification to discriminate, i.e., opt out of abiding by non-discrimination laws. Also known as Religious Freedom Restoration Act or RFRA. Passed [Senate 31-16](#); passed [House 61-33](#); signed into law.

[HF 2389](#) (HSB 649) *AGAINST* - **enables discrimination based on gender identity, including increasing barriers to accessing services and public accommodations**. Discriminates against trans individuals by specifically defining ‘woman’ in state law and directing (not requiring) publicly funded entities to segregate clients based on sex assigned at birth. Puts victim service providers in conflict with federal grant conditions requiring compliance with ‘equal access’ non-discrimination provisions in federal law. Approved by House Education Committee.

SF 2263 ([SSB 3084](#)) *AGAINST* – requires **transgender people in jails or prisons** be placed in and use facilities (cells, bathrooms, showers) that align with their gender assigned at birth. Approved by Senate Judiciary.

[SF 2286](#) (SSB 3006) *AGAINST* – ‘**religious or conscience refusals**’ - allows healthcare institutions, insurers, providers to refuse to provide or pay for medical care based on religious and moral beliefs. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

HF 2082 *AGAINST* **strikes gender ID from Iowa civil rights law**. Defeated in subcommittee.

[SF 2037](#) *AGAINST* – prohibits counties and cities from banning ‘**conversion therapy**’ a debunked practice that harms children. Approved by Senate Local Government subcommittee. Approved by Senate Local Government subcommittee.

[HF 2548](#) (HF 2060) *AGAINST* modifies how **world language** can be taught – prohibits teaching gender-neutral language when the language being taught utilizes a grammatical gender system. Approved by House Education Committee.

[HF 2396](#) (HF 2139) *AGAINST* – prohibits schools from taking disciplinary action against employees, students if they refuse to use a student’s chosen name. Approved by House Education Committee.

[SF 2055](#) *AGAINST* – **statewide bathroom bill** – prohibits transgender individuals from using appropriate public restrooms or changing areas matching their gender identity. Introduced.

[SF 2093](#) *FOR* **parents right** to make health decisions on behalf of minor children. Introduced.

HEALTH CARE & ABORTION ACCESS

[SF 2251](#) (SSB 3140) *UNDECIDED* – **Medicaid expansion for 12-month coverage post-partum** but reduces income eligibility. Passed [Senate 34-13](#), passed [House 70-25](#), sent to Governor.

[SF 2252/HF 2267](#) *AGAINST* - reduces criteria for community organizations to participate in the MOMS program (**crisis pregnancy centers**) in a way that undermines safety and access to support for pregnant people. SF 2252 passed [Senate 31-16](#); passed [House 61-34](#); signed into law.

[SF 2286](#) (SSB 3006) *AGAINST* – ‘**religious or conscience refusals**’ - allows healthcare institutions, insurers, providers to refuse to provide or pay for medical care based on religious and moral beliefs. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

[SF 2064](#) *AGAINST* – removes current law provisions allowing **minors to access HPV vaccine**- would insert parental consent requirement. Approved by Senate HHS Committee.

[HF 2565](#) ([HF 2236](#)) *FOR* – no gap **Medicaid coverage inmates** released from prison. Approved by House HHS Appropriations subcommittee.

HF 2562 *FOR* – ensuring ‘**period products**’ are available in public school restrooms. Introduced.

[HF 2518](#) (HF 2230) *AGAINST* – allows a parent to file a **wrongful death** lawsuit on behalf of a person that would now include an ‘unborn child’ as defined in Iowa abortion law as an organism from fertilization to live birth (**‘personhood’**). Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

HF 2575 *AGAINST* – enhanced penalty fetus death, **personhood**. Passed House [58-36](#).

HF 2584 (HSB 642) *FOR* – allows **pharmacist to dispense certain hormonal birth control** without a prescription for people 18 and over. (‘over the counter’ birth control). Approved by House HHS Committee.

HF 689/SF 2137 *FOR* – state request for **Medicaid Family Planning** waiver. Introduced.

HF 2122 *AGAINST* – **medication abortion ban**. Introduced.

SF 2142 *FOR* – continuous Medicaid eligibility for children. Introduced.

SF 2027 *AGAINST* – requires consent for students to take sex ed.

CIVIL /CONSUMER RIGHTS

[SF 2095](#)/[HF 2454](#) *AGAINST* – **religious exemption** allowing anyone to use their religious beliefs as justification to discriminate, i.e., opt out of abiding by non-discrimination laws. Also known as Religious Freedom Restoration Act or RFRA. Passed [Senate 31-16](#); Passed [House 61-33](#); Signed into law.

[SF 2096](#)/[HF 2540](#) *AGAINST* - **repeal gender balance requirements** on appointed boards, commissions, and councils. Passed [Senate 32-15](#); Passed [House 62-33](#); Signed into law.

[HF 2219](#) *FOR* – addresses predatory fines and fees imposed on **abandoned vehicles** by towing and impound companies. Approved by House Judiciary subcommittee.

[SF 2162](#) (SSB 3037) *FOR* – Safe at Home (SAH) address confidentiality programs. Allows shelter name to be used in lieu of physical address for people participating in SAH program. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

[SF 2340](#)/[HF 2567](#) (HSB 703) ([HF 2381](#)) *AGAINST* - **preempts federal immigration law** by allowing local law enforcement and judges to determine whether someone should be deported; harms survivors waiting on a final determination re visas (U/T visa, VAWA self-petition) – federal law protections for undocumented survivors. SF 2340 passed [Senate 34-16](#) (amendment to protect undocumented survivors failed [failed 17-33](#)); passed [House 64-30](#); signed into law.

[HF 2608](#) ([HF 2112](#) *AGAINST*) – could **make service providers criminally liable for doing their job**. The first part restricts access to public benefits for undocumented individuals and the second part imposes stiff criminal penalties for ‘**smuggling**’, i.e., transporting another person if the intent is to conceal them from law enforcement or help them flee. Passed [House 60-32](#).

[SF 108](#) *AGAINST* - **penalizes employers for not using federal e-verify** system; allows county attorney, local law enforcement, or member of public to file a complaint if they believe person employed at a worksite does not have legal immigration status. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee. Passed [Senate 30-17](#).

[HF 2320](#) ([HF 2128](#)) - citizenship requirement **college tuition**. ICADV did not declare. Approved by House Judiciary.

[HF 2119](#) *FOR* – driver license/non-operator ID for immigrants. Introduced.

CIVIL LAW

[HF 2322](#) (HSB 574) *UNDECIDED* – regarding **joint physical care** to parents awarded joint legal custody. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

[HF 2571](#) ([HSB 677](#)) *UNDECIDED* – allows **LE file civil protection order** on behalf of victim. Passed [House 98-0](#); passed Senate Judiciary subcommittee 3-0.

CRIMINAL LAW; LEGAL SYSTEM REFORM

[HF 2460](#) *UNDECIDED* – reduces earned time for people convicted of **human trafficking**; includes a provision to protect **victim advocate confidentiality**. Passed [House 91-3](#); passed [Senate 46-0](#); sent to Governor.

[HF 2098/SF 2174](#) *UNDECIDED* – **protection orders** - enhanced penalty for committing assault while subject to a criminal NCO or civil PO. Passed [House 93-2](#); passed [Senate 49-0](#). Sent to IGOV.

[HF 2191/SF 2164](#) *UNDECIDED* – eliminates **earned time** for specific violent offenses and habitual offenders. Passed [House 75-22](#); passed [Senate 37-12](#); signed into law.

[HF 349](#) *FOR* – **probation reform** establishes education and work credits to earn reduced time as incentives for successfully completing probation and become productive in communities. House passed 93-1 in 2023; Senate Judiciary Committee approved in 2023; eligible for debate in Senate.

[SF 2349](#) (SSB 3025) *AGAINST* – effectively eliminates **defense subpoenas**, undermines post-conviction relief. (Similar to HF 2616) Passed [Senate 35-14](#); House did not advance.

[HF 2616](#) (HSB 528) *AGAINST* – effectively eliminates **defense subpoenas**, undermines post-conviction relief. Eligible for debate in House.

[HF 2570](#) – allows county attorneys to be issue a professional permit to carry gun. ICADV did not declare. Passed [House 70-24](#); Passed [Senate 34-12](#); sent to Governor.

[SF 2341](#)(SF 2067) *FOR* – **SA victims rights**. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HF 594](#) *FOR* – **restitution reform** - requirement to pay \$150,000 restitution by individual convicted of felony crimes resulting in death does not apply to offenders when offense was directly related to being a victim of human trafficking. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

[SF 522](#) *FOR* – **restitution reform** - judicial discretion (instead of mandatory) requirement to pay \$150,000 restitution by individual convicted of felony crimes resulting in death when offense was directly related to being victimized by person who died. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee in 2023. Eligible for debate in Senate.

SF 2353 ([SF 493](#)) *UNDECIDED* - requires **DV risk assessment** at scene. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

SSB 3085 *AGAINST* – establishes death penalty for conviction of first degree murder.