

ICADV STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 2022

The 2022 session of the 89th General Assembly adjourned one hour into May 25. In our view this session will be remembered by egregious inaction on real issues impacting individuals and families in our state. The pandemic, now responsible for over **1 million U.S. deaths**, exposed glaring inequities causing violence and hardship in every Iowa community. Despite a few high points, legislators did not seize the opportunity to do and be better. Instead, Iowans suffering economic insecurity were blamed instead of supported, transgender girls and women were kicked off school sports teams, and no meaningful efforts were taken to address individual and community violence.

The session ends with a longer than usual list of retiring legislators and many others anxious to return home to campaign full time- some with hotly contested races in Iowa's June 7 primary election. It's an especially significant election year due to redistricting resulting in all new legislative districts and with the Governor and state executives on the ballot. Following these highlights is a longer list of select bills ICADV tracked during the 2022 session. The 90th General Assembly will convene in January 2023 with a blank slate and a lot of new legislators.

Victim services = \$5 million state funding: Legislators approved ([HF 2559](#)), the Justice System appropriations bill providing \$5 million in state funds for victim services, same as last year. During House consideration, Rep. Marti Anderson's (D) amendment which included our request to increase funding to \$10 million and amend the line item to include *all* victims of violent crime, was defeated. Debate time was limited during Senate consideration but Senator Todd Taylor (D) spoke about the need for more victim services funding. The Governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

In addition to asking state legislators for an increase in *state* funds for victim services, the 3 Coalitions asked Governor Reynolds to allocate \$20 million from Iowa's share of *federal* American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID relief funding to victim services. The Governor did not allocate ARPA funds for victim services as we requested and as several other states have done, but staff indicated she may establish a competitive grant process for ARPA funds at a future date. Although disappointing on both fronts, the need for increased funds for crime victims got some well-deserved attention thanks to you and we will continue to engage you in pursuing additional funds and elevating victim voices.

Housing Access priority bills earn broad support but fail to advance: Our two top priority housing bills earned broad bi-partisan support but essentially got stuck in line. [HF 2479](#), allowing **Early Lease Termination for victims** of violent crime, sailed through House Public Safety committee with unanimous support in the subcommittee and full committee, but did not advance further after failing to beat stiff competition from a long list of bills waiting for consideration by the full House. [HF 820](#), legislation removing a major barrier to housing access by allowing for **expungement of certain eviction records**, approved 95-0 by the House last year, was sent to the Senate and included as a provision in HF 866 but got stuck in committee. We will keep these widely supported policies as top priorities in the next session. Enactment of these two policies would be a major victory for survivors and help make it a little easier to assist survivors who need housing.

LGBTQ Rights – epic retreat – transgender girls/women athlete ban signed into law: ICADV opposed hateful, unnecessary, and cruel legislation ([HF 2416](#)) signed into law by Governor Reynolds March 3, 2022, that bans transgender girls/women in public schools, colleges, universities, and accredited non-public entities, from playing on sports teams matching their gender identity. Thankfully, a record number of other bills undermining rights for LGBTQ Iowans failed to advance but it was not for lack of trying. Also, since any undermining of abortion rights by the US Supreme Court or the Iowa Supreme Court directly threatens the legal basis for LGBTQ rights, protections against discrimination enshrined in Iowa's civil rights law remain at significant risk.

Justice for Incarcerated Survivors – changed minds but not commutation process: Amazing progress on [HF 2191](#), a proposal to make meaningful changes to Iowa's commutation process came to a devastating halt when the

House Public Safety Committee did not advance the bill. This bill, dear to our hearts because it would give a second chance to survivors serving life sentences, had robust bi-partisan support (41 original cosponsors!), advanced out of subcommittee 3-0; and had enough votes to advance through full committee but was not put on the agenda. Thanks to your voices and the herculean efforts of a small but mighty group of allies, including 3 University of Iowa students, advocacy efforts succeeded in changing more minds than ever before. Since then, ICADV is joining allies in submitting two petitions to the Board of Parole requesting administrative changes to improve the commutation process as per the bill proposal. Although, changing the law is preferable, these administrative changes could provide meaningful improvement to the process in the interim.

Access to Abortion in Peril: Fortunately, bills to prohibit abortion and restrict access to medication abortion did not advance this year. Again, not for lack of trying and not much comfort depending on the outcome of two important court decisions. A draft US Supreme Court majority opinion explicitly overturning *Roe v Wade* was leaked in May. A final decision is expected in June, but the Court seems prepared to end or significantly restrict the federal constitutional right to abortion. Meanwhile, also in June, the Iowa Supreme Court will issue a ruling on a challenge to a 24-hour waiting period provision in state law that could impact Iowa's state constitutional right to abortion. Regardless of the outcome in either of these court cases, enacting new restrictions or prohibitions on abortion in Iowa will require state legislators to pass a law. Although several bills to do that did not advance, they offer a good indication of the road ahead.

Economic Security – moving in wrong direction: Several troubling proposals signed into law could negatively impact economic security for all Iowans, especially survivors. [HF 2355](#), a bill ICADV opposed, that **reduces unemployment benefits** from 26 weeks to 16 weeks as well as the dollar amount of the benefit, will be signed into law soon. This means Iowa will join [only 9 other states](#) with fewer than 26 weeks of benefits. Cutting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will not address worker shortages, it just makes it harder for people to get back to work, especially gender violence victims who need time to find a safe job and get back on their feet. This impacts ALL working families who lose jobs through no fault of their own.

[HF 2329](#), legislation ICADV supports allowing financial institutions to offer **prize-linked savings** accounts, failed to advance. These programs would help all Iowans and would be especially helpful to survivors by allowing individuals to open an account with a minimal deposit and a no-risk opportunity to quickly build savings. Legislation ICADV opposed (HSB 508) that would have kicked families off **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food benefits** did not advance, but we remain concerned that changes to Iowa's public benefits eligibility system as well as the merger of the Department of Public Health and Department of Human Services could present troubling new barriers to accessing support for all Iowans and make it harder for you to support survivors seeking services.

New dangerous gun bills fail to advance but reckless gun amendment on Nov 8 ballot: Despite no threat to accessing guns in Iowa, lawmakers never tire of undermining public safety. Unfortunately, a reckless gun constitutional amendment proposal will be on the general election ballot in November 2022 – if approved by voters, efforts to advance gun safety become exponentially more challenging. But at least this year, two gun bills ICADV opposed failed to advance: [SF 2250](#), prohibiting employers from restricting **guns at workplaces** and [HF 2476](#) allowing a person to carry an unsecured **gun in their vehicle** on a public highway.

Immigrant Rights: Legislation ([HF 2192](#); [SF 2068](#)) to ease Iowa's egregious “**English Only**” law was introduced but did not advance. ICADV supported these proposals allowing entities to provide information and services in other languages to more effectively serve Iowans.

ICADV BILL TRACKER (select bills list)

Following is a select list of the many bills ICADV tracked this year, i.e., we monitored over 100 bills and highlights below are proposals receiving some attention or significant to ICADV. Descriptions indicate the latest legislative action, i.e., how far the bill advanced in the legislative process. Since this is the final year of the two-year session all bills not signed by the Governor are legislatively 'dead', i.e., the 90th General Assembly will convene in January 2023 with a blank slate and a lot of new faces. For bills without hyper-links click [here](#); then on the left side, under 'Bills' section- just enter the bill number.

HOUSING

[HF 2479](#) (HSB 707) FOR – allows tenant to **terminate a lease early** without penalty if they provide written notice and documentation to landlord that tenant or household member is a victim of violent crime, e.g., domestic abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, elder abuse. Approved by House Public Safety Committee.

[HF 820](#) - FOR- **eviction expungement**- removes unjust barriers to housing for tenants with prior **eviction** records. In 2021, this bill passed the House (95-0) and was added as a provision to HF 866 for Senate consideration by the Ways and Means Committee but did not advance.

[HF 2562](#) - **mobile homes** – requires landowners to provide more notice to mobile home owners re leases and rent increases. Effort started with bi-partisan support for proposal aimed at protecting mobile home residents from abusive practices but fell far short. House approved 60-37; Senate approved 32-16; signed into law May 17, 2022. The bill changed so frequently we did not declare but ICADV does not support the bill that was signed.

HF 2084 FOR – created a tenant hotline. Introduced.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

[HF 2355](#)/SF 2131 – AGAINST - **reduces unemployment benefits** from 26 weeks to 16 weeks as well as the dollar amount of the benefit. Passed House 59-37; passed Senate 30-14; sent to Governor.

HF 724 FOR – requires employers to treat **adoptive parents** the same as other parents in terms of benefits and policies. Passed House 95-0 in 2021; Approved by Senate Labor Committee.

[HF 2329](#) (HSB 584) FOR- allows Iowa financial institution to offer **prize linked savings** accounts (financial savings incentives). Approved by House State Government Committee.

HF 2257 (HSB 603) FOR – requires employers to make accommodations for **pregnant workers**. Approved by House State Government Committee.

[HF 2438](#) (HSB698) AGAINST- implements new system for **public benefits oversight**; includes provision making ineligible for SNAP if do not cooperate with child support agency. Approved by House Human Resources; Referred to House Appropriations and approved by Subcommittee.

HSB 504 AGAINST – new ID authentication for public benefits. Approved by House Human Resources Subcommittee.

HSB 505 AGAINST – no SNAP if not coordinate on child support. Tabled by House Human Resources Subcommittee.

HSB 508 AGAINST - SNAP asset test would have kicked thousands off. Approved by House Human Resources Subcommittee.

HSB 693 FOR – increases income eligibility limit for SNAP. Approved by State Government Subcommittee.

SSB 3136 FOR – increases income eligibility limit for SNAP. No recommendation from Senate Commerce Subcommittee.

HF 2279/SF 2275 – AGAINST – reduce UI benefits; tort reform. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

SF 2249 (SSB 3096) – AGAINST – reduce UI benefits; indexing amount of benefit. Approved by Senate Labor Committee.

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

[HF 2549](#) (HF 2137) FOR – establishes loan repayment program to attract **mental health professionals**. Passed House 83-0; passed Senate 44-0; sent to Governor.

ABORTION ACCESS

[HF 2389](#) (HF 2119) AGAINST- requires unethical informed consent for **medication abortion**- physicians required to tell women can reverse medication abortion (not true); requires in-person dispensing by doctor contrary to medical science and FDA guidelines. Approved by House Human Resources Committee.

HF 383 AGAINST - requires unethical informed consent for **medication abortion**. Approved by House Human Resources Subcommittee.

HF 2289 AGAINST – trigger law, **prohibits abortion** if courts overturn constitutional right. Introduced.

SF 2029 AGAINST – **12-week abortion ban**. Introduced.

HF 2210 AGAINST – implements unnecessary **abortion data reporting**. Approved by House Human Resources Subcommittee.

MATERNAL HEALTH

SF 2381 (SF 2354*) – provides state funding for crisis pregnancy centers; expands Medicaid coverage for pregnant women. Senate approved 32-16; House Appropriation subcommittee did not advance. *did not declare on SF 2381, declared against SF 2354

LGBTQ RIGHTS

[HF 2416](#) (HF 2309) AGAINST - **bans transgender girls/women** in public schools, colleges, universities, and accredited non-public entities, from playing on sports teams matching their gender identity. Passed House 55-39; Passed Senate 31-17; Signed into law March 3, 2022.

[SF2342](#) (SSB3146) AGAINST - bans transgender girls/women in public schools, colleges, universities, and accredited non-public entities, from playing on sports teams matching their gender identity. Approved by Senate Education Committee; replaced by HF 2416.

[SF2284](#) (SF2170) AGAINST - includes a broad **religious exemption** which would undermine the Iowa Civil Rights Act by allowing entities an exemption from civil rights laws by claiming it violates religious freedom. Approved by Senate Local Government Committee.

SF 2025 AGAINST- prevents transgender students in elementary and secondary school from accessing restrooms not corresponding to their biological sex. Introduced.

HF 2058 AGAINST – creates penalties for indecent exposure that would bar transgender individuals from many establishments. Introduced.

SF 2024 AGAINST – no gender ID in elementary curriculum. Introduced.

HF 2054 AGAINST- no gender ID school curriculum. Introduced.

CIVIL LEGAL

[HF 825](#) (HF 450) FOR- no finding for domestic abuse and sexual assault **consent agreements**. House passed 97-0; Senate passed 47-0; signed into law May 2, 2022.

[HF2419](#) (HF 2140) FOR - expunge domestic and sexual abuse civil protection order dismissals. Approved by House Judiciary committee. House passed 97-0. Senate Judiciary Committee approved.

[HF202](#) joint custody; AGST - requires **50/50 joint physical care**. House Judiciary Subcommittee did not advance.

CRIMINAL LAW; LEGAL SYSTEM REFORM

HF 2191 FOR - creates meaningful **commutation** process; establishes structure with firm timelines and specific factors for Board of Parole and Governor to consider when reviewing cases. Approved by House Public Safety Subcommittee.

HSB 607 FOR – **probation reform** providing incentives to help individuals successfully complete probation terms and become productive in communities, reduce probation revocation for inability to pay fines or technical violations. Approved by House Public Safety Subcommittee.

SF 2109 FOR- chance for **parole for aiding/abetting** murder. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee did not advance.

[HF 2464](#) (HSB 721) FOR – **expunge certain criminal convictions for HT** victims. Passed House 95-1; Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

SSB 3131 FOR – expunge certain criminal convictions for HT victims. Approved by Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

HF 2419 (HF 2140) FOR – expunge record for DV/SA dismissals. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

[HF2346](#) (HF2093 UNDEC) – requires **vehicle ID on NCO**, includes penalties. House passed 93-4. Senate Judiciary Committee approved. (We did not declare after subcommittee)

HF 2478 (HSB 711) UNDEC – intention is to include domestic abuse assault misdemeanor crimes in Chapter 915 notification protections but concerns with impact on victim compensation. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

SF 2178 (SSB3027 UNDEC) – **permanent NCO**, defendant must initiate extension. Approved by Senate Judiciary.

SF 2328 (SF2226) - **omnibus crime bill** including enhanced penalties, misguided attempts to enhance victim rights. Passed Senate 35-10.

HF 2386 (HF 2042) AGAINST – allows unethical disclosure of psychological test material in criminal trials. Approved by House Judiciary Committee.

SSB 3054 AGAINST - allows unethical disclosure of psychological test material in criminal trials. Approved by Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

HSB 525 AGAINST- **Marcy's Law** victim rights constitutional amendment. House Judiciary subcommittee did not approve but advanced without recommendation; not considered by full committee.

SF 2064 UNDEC – **enhanced penalties** violent repeat offenders. Approved by Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

HF 2362/SF 2365 – domestic violence **risk assessment**. Introduced.

HF 2353 – emergency temporary criminal **no contact orders**. Introduced.

GUNS

[SF 2250](#) (SF 2143) AGAINST - prohibits employers from restricting **guns at workplaces** as long as guns and ammo are out of sight and locked in an employee vehicle. Approved by Senate Labor Committee.

[HF 2476](#) (HSB 646) AGAINST - allows a person to carry a **gun in their vehicle** on a public highway without it being taken apart or secured. Approved by House Public Safety Committee.

HF 2303 AGAINST - 2nd amdt preservation act. Introduced.

SF 2002 AGAINST - 2nd amdt preservation act. Approved by Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

CIVIL RIGHTS – IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, FREE SPEECH/Training racism/sexism

[SF 2068/HF 2192](#) FOR – ease Iowa's English only law. Introduced.

[SF 339](#) (SF84) AGAINST- **anti-immigrant** rights bill penalizes employers for not using the federal e-verify system and harms immigrant workers. Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee.

HSB 635 AGAINST – penalize employers for not using e-verify. House Judiciary Subcommittee approved.

HF2090 AGAINST - prohibited effective training all public funded entities. Introduced.