

January 12, 2024 – Week 1

The second session of the 90th General Assembly began on Monday, January 8. The first week is marked by ceremony and speeches from legislative leaders. Leaders from both chambers outlined what they hope to accomplish during session in the Senate. Speeches were given President Amy Sinclair, Minority Leader Pam Jochum, and Majority Leader Jack Whitver. In the House, Speaker Patrick Grassley, Minority Leader Jennifer Konfrst, and Majority Leader Matt Windschitl spoke.

Governor Reynolds delivered her Condition of the State Address on Tuesday evening. She outlined her priorities for the 2024 session, which include: AEA reform, teacher pay increases, increased childcare options, mental health, and expedited income tax cuts. Important for Habitat, Governor Reynolds included an additional \$500,000 in her proposed FY2025 budget for the Housing Renewal Program.

Typically, the first week of session is slower, however this year, several bills were introduced during the first week and even subcommittee meetings were held. Next week, the pace of committee and subcommittee work will pick up considerably.

Habitat's annual **Day at the Capitol** will be held on **Wednesday, January 31st from 7 – 10:30 am**. Affiliates and advocates will gather for a legislative breakfast with legislators to discuss priorities. Please contact [Rachel Ong](#) if you would like to attend. The more, the merrier!

Key Legislation:

HSB549: The bill extends the period for families to access case management following disaster and increases the grant limit from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per household. The subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, January 16. **Support.**

SSB3040: This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for residential building. A subcommittee with Senators Webster, Weiner, and Westrich is assigned but not yet scheduled. **Monitoring.**

Key Dates:

Habitat Day at the Capitol:	January 31
First Funnel:	February 16
Second Funnel:	March 16
April 16:	100 th Day of Session (<i>per diem</i> expenses end per Iowa Code)