

January 19, 2024 – Week 2

***Habitat Day at the Capitol:***

Habitat's annual **Day at the Capitol** will be held on **Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 7 – 10:00 am**. Affiliates and advocates will gather on the first floor rotunda for breakfast with legislators to discuss housing priorities. Please contact [Rachel Ong](#) if you would like to attend. **We need *your* help to uplift the importance of affordable homeownership and its impact to partner families, neighborhoods, and communities! Come help us build louder!**

***Under the Golden Dome:***

It was a short week at the Capitol due to the Martin Luther King, Jr Day holiday. The pace picked up considerably at the Capitol this week, with scores of bills being introduced and many subcommittee meetings being held. Much of the energy at the Capitol was around the Governor's somewhat controversial proposed reorganization to the Area Education Agencies (AEAs). Budget subcommittees met this week to begin budget discussions and review Governor Reynolds' proposed budget. Included in her recommendations is an additional \$500,000 for the Housing Renewal Program.

On housing policy, one of the larger priorities is increasing funds to the State Housing Trust Fund by lifting the cap on the real estate transfer tax. The Fund received an increase in 2021, however the program is heavily utilized, and additional funds would benefit many more low-income families across the state. We will be tracking this issue closely.

***Key Legislation:***

**[HSB557](#)**: This legislation removes the cap on the real estate transfer tax and would increase monies to the State Housing Trust Fund. If passed, based on last year's receipts, would approximately increase the funding from \$7 million to \$12 million. The House subcommittee will meet on Tuesday to consider the bill. The Senate companion bill is expected from drafters soon. **Support.**

**[HSB549/SSB3061](#)**: 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 House subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 16 and moved the bill forward for consideration by the Public Safety committee. The Senate subcommittee has been assigned but not yet scheduled to meet. **Support.**

**[SSB3040](#)**: This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for residential buildings. The Senate subcommittee with Senators Webster, Weiner, and Westrich is scheduled for next Thursday. **Support.**

# advocacy updates



**HF665:** This bill allows municipalities to establish land redevelopment trusts (i.e. land banks) and allows those entities to acquire property through tax sale and related methods. The bill passed the House last year and a Senate subcommittee has been assigned. **Support.**

**Key Dates:**

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