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### **Week 2 of session includes more bills introduced and subcommittee meetings**

The second week of legislation, though a short one due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, was a

busy one. More bills continue to be introduced and subcommittees scheduled. Up to now, legislators have focused on moving bills through the subcommittee process. Full committee work will likely increase starting next week.

Bills that moved this week included:

- Mental health telehealth payment parity.
- Rural Primary Care Loan Repayment Program.
- Professional Recruitment Program.
- Hospital patient data collection.
- Public improvement contracts.
- Primary care pilot projects.
- Insulin prescription costs.

Visit IHA's [Legislation NOW page](#) for details on these bills.

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## Hospital input requested on telehealth reimbursement proposal

The Iowa Hospital Association hosted an all-member call with Wellmark Tuesday, Jan. 19, to learn more about Wellmark's proposal for telehealth reimbursement. Several representatives from Wellmark were on the call to present the reimbursement methodology and corresponding metrics.

The Iowa Hospital Association is gathering feedback about the proposal. Please let us know your thoughts. You can email [Kim Murphy](#) or [Susan Horras](#) with thoughts, questions or concerns.

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## Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee in the House meets

Wednesday, Jan. 20, members of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee in the House met to hear an overview of the governor's budget recommendations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The Legislative Services Agency reported Iowa's Medicaid Program ended fiscal year 2020 with a surplus of \$185.8 million because of an increase in revenue from the Health Care Trust Fund, an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage because of COVID-19, and revenue and expenditure changes and shifts from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021.

The agency estimates that Medicaid will have a surplus of \$228.4 million in fiscal year 2021 above what was appropriated in June because of the 6.2% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage increase, which has resulted in approximately \$72 million per quarter addition. This estimate also includes an increase of \$6.2 million for capitation payments for the managed care organizations for the second half of fiscal year 2021. In fiscal year 2022, it's estimated that Medicaid will have a surplus of \$60.6 million, assuming the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rate expires June 30, 2021. This does not include an increase in capitation payments to the managed care organizations for fiscal year 2022 but instead annualizes the fiscal year 2021 increase, increasing fiscal year 2022 expenditures by \$14.5 million.

Additionally, the governor is recommending for the fiscal year 2022 general fund:

- An increase of \$21.9 million for the Medicaid program.
- An increase of more than \$2.8 million for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- An increase of \$200,000 for the Psychiatric Residency Training Program, increasing the program's funding to \$600,000.
- An increase of \$1 million for a regional center of excellence pilot project, funding two grants

to demonstrate regional collaboration in assessing targeted medical needs of local residents.

- An increase of \$3.9 million to increase provider rates for psychiatric medical institutions for children.
- An increase of \$15 million to provide sustainable mental health funding for the Mental Health and Disability Service regions.
- A decrease of \$7.89 million for the Health Care Trust Fund because of fewer receipts in the fund.
- A decrease of more than \$2.2 million for the Quality Assurance Trust Fund because of few receipts in the fund.

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## IHA files court document about negligent credentialing

The Iowa Hospital Association typically works in the legislative and executive branches on issues of importance to hospitals and the patients for which they care. But did you know that IHA also weighs in on issues that come before the Supreme Court?

Recently, the Iowa Hospital Association, in partnership with the Iowa Medical Society and the American Medical Association, filed a “friend of the court” brief with the Iowa Supreme Court. The brief does not seek to support either party in the case, but provides the court with information about how recognizing or expanding a claim for negligent credentialing would affect hospitals, providers and patients.

IHA is awaiting a ruling in the case and will provide updated information as it becomes available.

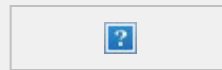
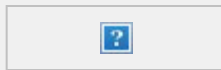
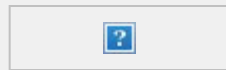
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## How to stay in the know

Throughout legislative session, the Iowa Hospital Association has developed several ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned throughout session for weekly editions of *Legislative Bulletin*, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA’s Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account (web addresses are below). IHA also will mobilize hospital advocates through action alerts when legislators need to hear about hospital issues. **Advocates can sign up for email or text message IHA action alerts at <https://www.ihaonline.org/advocacy/iha-hospital-action-network/>.**

Links to bookmark:

- [IHA’s bill tracker](#)
- [Facebook page](#)
- [Twitter account](#)
- [LinkedIn account](#)
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