



Your Capitol Voice

REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY KAUFMANN

Dear Friend,

During every Legislative session I either host or attend 20-plus legislative forums and Listening Posts. They take place in every corner of the district plus Muscatine and Iowa City. Constituent input is the engine that drives the Legislature. I appreciate the great attendance at the 2019 forums as well as the thorough feedback. There are still a few more scheduled. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that even though the listening posts and the actual legislative session come to an end, my constituent work is 24/7, 365 days per year. I look forward to the dozens of meetings, hundreds of phone calls, and thousands of emails that will continue even when I am not in Des Moines.

One commitment I made to all of you is that I answer my own calls, texts, and emails. I do not delegate that authority to staff – you get a response directly from me. We are a citizen legislature which means that all of us have regular jobs when it is not January-April. When I am not in Des Moines, I am a farmer and small business owner. Please continue to give me your ideas and input year-around. These ideas often turn into bills in the next legislative session. I want to share with all of you some of the ideas and questions that have emerged at my Listening Posts this year. I would appreciate any feedback you might have on any of these ideas. I will group them according to the Listening Posts where I hear about them.



It was great to meet with Cole and his family yesterday. Cole is a student at Wilton Jr High. He was awarded the NRA All American Scholastic Team recognition making him the only junior high student in Iowa to achieve this honor in 2018. Congrats Cole!

Contact Rep. Kaufmann:

By email: Bobby.Kaufmann@legis.iowa.gov

By phone: 515-281-3221

By letter: 1527 330th St. Wilton IA 52778



North Cedar Communities – One issue that comes up time and time again at my forums in North Cedar is the issue of open enrollment. When students open enroll out of the school district, the property tax portion of their education dollars from the state follows. Many taxpayers and parents find this to be unfair. They think it is unfair because the families still use city services such as water, sewer, and electric. Those infrastructure investments by small towns cost money yet the property tax dollars go to the new school district. I have filed bills to correct this many times but the big cities always seem to prevail.

Solon – Health insurance costs come up each year at Solon. Most insurance issues remain federal issues, but one big thing the State is doing is to try and reign in prescription drug costs. We have several bills this year to control the entities known as “PBM” (pharmacy benefit manager). Our small-town pharmacies are often held hostage by these entities and prescription costs subsequently skyrocket. PBM’s must and will be held accountable.

Bennett – EMS funding is a concern at all of the communities I represent. Bennett is a small yet resilient community that has continued to operate a tremendous EMS and fire service. Incredible volunteers are what drives their success but it is critical for both Bennett and every community in this district that the state supplies a robust and steady stream of funding, and allow local governments to participate in that.

Wilton/West Branch/Tipton/Durant – Education comes up at every forum I attend but there have been more questions asked at these four communities than any other. Education funding is extremely important and I have written about that in previous columns. I am also asked about operation sharing, transportation funding, SAVE, and vouchers.

In closing, I want to mention that I have been receiving a lot of emails for and against two very high-profile bills: the Mid America Solar bill and the Judicial Reform/Nominating bill. These two bills are not ready for a final vote and are constantly being changed and discussed. Once a finished product is in sight I will write an entire column about each topic to be able to get your feedback.

Bobby

Capitol Visitors: Al Kroeger, Mike Shuger, Jim Williams, Wilton; Devon Schott, Dave Mohr Tipton; Amy Glick, Solon; Lance Kephart, Durant.



It's always great to see constituents from Wilton. Thanks for coming for a visit Mike!

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