

# IOWA HELPING COMMUNITY POLICY GROUP SURVEY RESPONSES: STATE CANDIDATES

## QUESTIONS

### 1. Child Care

Do you support investing additional state funds to raise the compensation of **child care workers** while making the cost to working families more affordable?

### 2. Direct Care

Do you support investing additional state funds to raise the reimbursement **direct care workers and home health aides** receive within state-funded Medicaid coverage?

### 3. Community Health

Do you support investing additional state funds for **community health workers** within public health to improve health outreach and response in poor and medically-underserved communities?

## Statewide Candidates

Audit  
or Rob Sand

Yes, we have a massive budget surplus that should be invested wisely, and this would be a good investment that would bring returns for the state.

Yes, our audits more than once have addressed the fact that current pay rates are inadequate.

I am less familiar with this issue and could not take a stance on it without substantially more knowledge about the issue.

## Legislative Candidates

District	Name	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
HD02	Steve Hansen	Yes	Yes	Yes

HD06	James Eliason	Yes. Child care workers are paid poorly in general yet the cost to working families is still often unaffordable. Increasing state funding will improve care and allow more women to enter the workforce, reducing staffing shortages.	Yes	Yes. Improving health is very important and too many people don't seek medical care when intervention would be more successful and cheaper.
HD21	Joe Kerner	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD25	Diana Swartz	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD30	Megan Svinivas	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD35	Sean Bagnieswki	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD38	Erick Zehr	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD41	Molly Buck	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD43	Surresh Ready	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD45	Brian Lohse	Other. The cost of child care is enormous. We must find ways to drive down the overall cost of construction, operation, and other costly and needless regulation. Doing so will allow more funds to be available to pay employees as well as lower costs for parents.	Yes.	Yes. We must also invest more in preventative programs, such as wellness programs, to improve health and lower costs overall.

HD46	Bridget Carberry Montgomery	YES- It is imperative that we raise the wages of child care workers if we are ever resolve the child care crisis in Iowa. The State must take meaningful action to increase wages to attract workers, especially in rural areas that lack child care services	YES-We must increase the reimbursement rate for direct care workers and home health aides to make these important jobs more competitive	YES- We must do what we can to improve health outcomes in in our poor and medically-underserved and increasing wages of these workers would help draw more people into this profession.
HD47	Gary Overla	Yes, the more access that working families have to quality child care workers benefits our state in terms of economic growth and productivity	Yes, these services are vital to our communities.	Yes
HD48	Penny Vossler	YES. The Republican solution to the childcare shortage is to ask existing providers to care for more children. This is a safety issue and will lead to faster burnout of providers.	YES. These are literally life or death jobs and those who perform them deserve adequate compensation.	YES. These frontline workers can make a huge difference if they are adequately funded and provided with resources.
HD49	Beth Wessel- Kroeschel	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD50	Ross Wilburn	Yes. I believe in an economy that works for everyone and that you shouldn't have to work multiple jobs just to pay the bills. Also, affordable, accessible, and high quality care for children of working families is critical for their growth and supporting Iowa families.	Yes. As a former direct care worker, I know the importance of retaining good quality workers in the profession. This is about being able to recruit and retain, as well as support for individuals needing care.	Yes. It's critical to reduce barriers to health and mental health access and to reduce any disparities.
HD52	Sue Cahill	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD56	Charles Aldrich	No	No	No

<p>HD69 Jennifer Hansen</p>	<p>Yes. As a teacher I understand the importance of compensating people appropriately for taking care of our children</p>	<p>Yes. I help a 74 year old that has autism and it takes a special person to help those in need</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>HD77 Jeff Cooling</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>HD79 Tracy Elhert</p>	<p>YES!!! I was a child care owner for many years and reimbursement rates have always been low. This not only discourages childcare programs from accepting CCA, but gives CCA families less options to chose from when searching for childcare programs since so few programs will accept it. If the rates were increased more programs would accept it, giving CCA families a variety of choices. The more programs that offer it would also mean that CCA families may not have to pay private pay rates when they cannot find a program that accepts CCA. And we should not be passing legislation like what was done this year to pass more of the cost onto families who use CCA to pay for their childcare.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>HD80 Art Staid</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

HD81	Craig Cooper	Yes. These workers can literally change the lives of young Iowans by introducing these children to basic skills. It is important that they are paid a living wage to continue in these important positions. Access to quality, affordable child care also allows parents to work while children learn and have fun. Care givers of the elderly and developmentally challenged also play a vital role in families, who trust their loved ones to professional care givers.	Yes	Yes. Home health workers help clients/patients stay in their own homes, which is where they want to be.
HD81	Luana Stoltenberg	Yes, I am open to investing additional state funds to compensate child care workers. I would need to see details and amount compensated.	Yes, I am open to investing additional state funds to raise the reimbursement for direct care workers and home health aides, but would want to see the details and amount that is wanted.	Yes, I am open to investing additional state funds for community health workers, but again I would need to see the details and amount that is being requested before I could agree.
HD84	Sara Yedlik	Yes- As an educator, having quality and affordable child care is a critical need for the state of Iowa.	Yes- In order to provide equitable access to critical care, the reimbursement rates need align in order to provide living wages to our workforce.	Yes- Our underserved communities (location or financially) deserve equitable health care options.
HD88	Dr. Lisa Ossian	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD89	Elinor Levin	Yes	Yes	Yes
HD89	Jacob Onken	Other: How are we defining "working families"? How are we defining "child care workers"? Where would the funds come from?	No	Other: It depends on how we define "poor" and "medically-underserved."

<p>HD90 Adam Zabner</p>	<p>Yes, median Iowa families are currently spending up to a quarter of their income on childcare which is unsustainable. Low wages in the industry are making it difficult for folks who are passionate about childcare to work in the field</p>	<p>Yes, in addition, during the 2022 session House Democrats offered an amendment that would have allowed community colleges to add professions to the high-demand jobs list even if they didn't meet the \$14 an hour threshold. Currently, only high-demand jobs that have a starting median pay of \$14 an hour can be included on the list. Unfortunately the majority party rejected the amendment. Had the amendment been accepted, community colleges could have added direct care workers to the list, meaning students could go to community college tuition free.</p>	<p>Yes, as a candidate to become the first Latino democrat in the state house, I am painfully aware of the need for outreach to the Latino and other communities.</p>
<p>HD98 Monica Kurth</p>	<p>Yes. Current childcare costs are unaffordable for middle and lower income families. Childcare workers are paid so poorly that far too many leave childcare positions. This robs children of the stability they need in care centers and affects the quality of care.</p>	<p>Yes. These amazing workers are taking care of our most vulnerable citizens and are not being paid a living wage.</p>	<p>Yes. Health care should be a right not a privilege. How can we give huge tax breaks to the richest Iowans when the basic needs like housing and health care are being denied to such a large part of our population. Several years ago, a study found that 30% of Iowa households could not earn enough to cover basic needs and yet tax cuts for the wealthiest are given priority with money that was to be used to help with recovery after Covid. Shameful.</p>
<p>Rebecca HD100 Bowker</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>SD09 Tom Shipley</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

SD17	ToYa Johnson	Yes. I believe childcare providers should be properly compensated for the work they do and that parents who need assistance should be transitioned for one year before services are terminated.	Yes	Yes. Access to medical services is a big barrier to self care and self sufficiency.
SD17	Alejandro Murguia-Ortiz	Yes	Yes	Yes, there are many folks who take care of loved ones who are not getting paid. Those individuals deserve full pay by the state of Iowa.
SD21	Todd Brady	YES	YES	YES
SD25	Herman Quirnbach	Yes	Yes	Yes
SD27	Sam Cox	Yes	Yes	Yes
SD29	Jenn Wolff	YES. Care work is the work that allows all other work to happen.	YES. There is extremely high turn over and a growing caregiver shortage. I believe that if the state provided a strong workforce getting a living wage, we would see a decrease in health care costs.	ES. I completed a community health navigator course and believe this is the future for effective health care. Meeting people where they are.
SD30	Whitney Mixdorf	YES. The childcare crisis in this state is greatly impacting working families like my own.	YES. Iowa's private Medicaid system is disastrous and it's current structure is designed in a way that is detrimental to the health of lowans needing care.	YES. I believe healthcare is a human right and we have a duty to adequately serve all citizens.
SD35	Jed Ganzer	Yes	Yes	Yes
SD37	Molly Donahue	Yes	Yes	Yes

<p><b>SD41 Deb Vandergaast</b></p>	<p>YES!!! I am a childcare director and national childcare advocate. I have written numerous child care policy and legislative proposals, and I spoke at the U.S. Capital in 2017 for the Child Care Day on the Hill. My #1 legislative priority is addressing the child care crisis.</p>	<p>es. I am a former home care case manager for an agency that served seniors and disabled adults and children. My agency stopped providing Medicaid waiver services because of the low reimbursement.</p>	<p>Yes. I am a registered nurse and have worked and volunteered for my county public health department. Rural health departments have difficulty attracting and retaining nurses and direct care staff because they cannot offer competitive wages.</p>
<p><b>SD42 Jessika Wiskus</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>SD45 Janie Weiner</b></p>	<p>YES - one of the most important issues is wages (in addition to professionalization) - childcare is a huge responsibility and we need wage supports to get more childcare workers. Increasing ratios or allowing 16/17 year olds to work unsupervised won't solve the problem.</p>	<p>YES - all the caring professions are undervalued (and often comprised of women and persons of color) and reimbursement rates for caring for people - which should be at the top of our agenda - has to be a priority.</p>	<p>YES - my response is similar to my prior one - we need to take care of people, we need to give them the tools to take better care of themselves and their children.</p>
<p><b>SD47 Mary Figaro</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>