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Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [Legislature wraps up second funnel week](#)
 - [Still time to register for Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#)
 - [HRSA begins implementation of 340B eligibility exceptions for some hospitals](#)
 - [Dr. Lorna Breen Act is officially law](#)
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Legislature wraps up second funnel week

The second legislative funnel week of 2022 wrapped up last week, and IHA's advocacy team and hospital advocates worked hard to maintain the certificate-of-need process. The original bill that would have eliminated the certificate-of-need process died, but an amendment was attached to another bill about transparency for ambulatory surgical centers, House File 2248. The amendment carves out birthing centers and behavioral health services from the certificate-of-need process. It also increases the thresholds for capital projects from \$1.5 million to \$5 million and for purchasing new equipment from \$1.5 million to \$3 million.

In other action, workforce bills backed by Gov. Kim Reynolds were introduced in the House and Senate including loan repayment and reward programs to recruit providers to rural communities. The bills passed subcommittees and committees in both houses and are now in ways and means committees.

Other bills the advocacy team tracked include:

- Allowing registered nurses to administer vaccines under the direction of licensed pharmacists.
- Medicaid and fiscal issues.
- Medical malpractice (tort) reform.
- Prior authorization.
- Rural emergency hospital licensure.

- Volunteer emergency medical services tax abatements.
- Workforce.

The IHA advocacy team provided a full breakdown of the second funnel in this week's special edition of Capitol Update.

Click [HERE](#) for the vodcast.

Click [HERE](#) for the audio-only podcast.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of bills IHA followed and their outcomes after the second funnel week.



Still time to register for Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum

Seats still are available virtually and in person for the 2022 Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum this week. Register by noon today to participate in the hybrid forum that will feature a session from Clarinda Regional Health Center CEO Chuck Nordyke. He will share his experience with Clarinda Regional Health Center and will discuss strategies that boost revenue and provide a more-extensive care experience for patients.

Other topics to be discussed include:

- Burnout in health care staff.
- Changing mindsets to be successful.
- Rural provider recruiting.
- Social innovation.

The 2022 Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum is scheduled from 8:45 a.m.-4:30 pm. Wednesday, March 23.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

HRSA begins implementation of 340B eligibility exceptions for some hospitals

The Health Resources and Services Administration sent notices about implementing Sec. 121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

The new law protects certain qualifying 340B hospitals that lost their 340B eligibility because of a drop in their disproportionate-share-hospitals adjustment percentage below the required threshold to gain limited access to the program. Access to the 340B drug discounts will be available from the date of enactment through the end of 2022.

The notice was sent only to hospitals that were removed from the 340B program because they didn't meet the statutorily required disproportionate-share-hospitals adjustment percentage. Impacted hospitals would have received notification Friday, March 18.

Click [HERE](#) for the list of hospitals HRSA believes would benefit from this new law.

Hospitals that believe they may qualify and are not listed should call the 340B Prime Vendor Program from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at 888-340-2787 or email at apexusanswers@340bpvp.com.

Dr. Lorna Breen Act is officially law

The Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act ([H.R. 1667](#)) was signed into law by President Joe Biden Friday. The American Hospital Association-supported bill aims to improve the mental health and well-being of health care workers.

The legislation authorizes grants for programs that offer behavioral health services for front-line health care workers. The bill also requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to recommend strategies to facilitate health care provider well-being and to launch a campaign encouraging health care workers to seek assistance when needed.

The bill is named for Lorna Breen, M.D., who was chair of the emergency department at New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital in New York City. Dr. Breen died by suicide April 26, 2020, toward the beginning of the pandemic.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Some major workforce-related bills stall but may survive funnel deadline](#)
- [MercyOne North Iowa surgeon completes over 500 robotic surgeries](#)
- [As pandemic enters third year, officials grapple with its lingering questions](#)

National news

- [Health care organizations now must report cyberattacks to DHS](#)
- [Moderna seeks authorization for 4th COVID vaccine shot for adults](#)
- [The caveats of COVID-19 forecasting right now](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [You're the New Leader: Now What?](#): Tuesday, March 22
 - [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 23
 - [Understanding Hospital Board and Medical Staff Responsibilities Under Medicare COPs](#): Tuesday, April 12
 - [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 13
 - [Iowa Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration Spring Conference](#): Thursday, April 14
 - [Delegate More to Achieve More](#): Tuesday, April 19
 - [IHA Governance Forum](#): Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
 - [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Health Care](#): Monday, May 2 - Monday, Sept. 12
 - [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, May 3 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
 - [Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\) Series](#): Wednesday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 25
 - [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 17 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
 - [Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys Conference](#): Thursday, May 19
 - [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, May 24 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
 - [Workplace Violence Program Workshop](#): Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18
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Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



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