



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

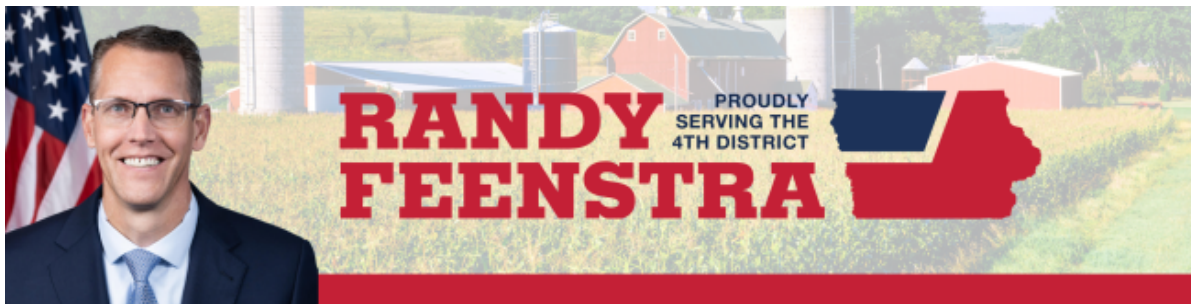
Randy's Roundup: Delivering relief for natural disaster victims

Rep. Randy Feenstra <repfeenstra@mail8.housecommunications.gov>

Sat, Feb 20, 2021 at 10:08 AM

Reply-To: repfeenstra@mail8.housecommunications.gov

To: laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com



Dear Friend,

2020 was a tough year for many Iowans, and unfortunately, it wasn't just because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Iowa farmers and rural business owners suffered losses due to the derecho and severe droughts, both of which impacted millions of acres of cropland across our state. That's why I made it a priority to deliver much-needed relief for producers impacted by the derecho and other natural disasters.

MY LATEST COLUMN: Delivering relief for natural disaster victims

On Monday, August 10, 2020, a massive storm system with high winds and isolated tornadoes tore through the Midwest, leaving a 700 mile path of destruction in its wake -- from Nebraska all the way to Indiana. In Iowa, early estimates indicated that 43 percent of cropland was impacted across the state, flattening millions of acres of corn and soybeans, crippling grain bins, and tearing barns and machine sheds apart. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimated damages from the storm, known as a derecho, would amount to \$7.5 billion -- making it the most costly severe thunderstorm in United States history.

When this devastating storm swept across the Midwest, many producers were already grappling with market disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Congress began debating the latest stimulus bill, I kept this in mind and made it a priority to deliver much-needed relief for farmers and rural businesses impacted by the derecho and other natural disasters.

I am extremely pleased that an amendment I proposed, which would grant assistance to

those affected by high wind storms like last summer's derecho, was adopted by the House Agriculture Committee. By reallocating some of the funds appropriated in the original bill to be used for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP), this legislation will help thousands of producers across the country who have suffered losses from natural disasters or severe weather -- including floods, snowstorms, and droughts.

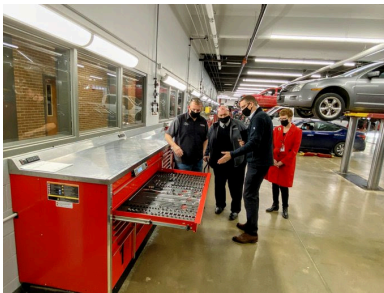
READ MY LATEST COLUMN: Delivering relief for natural disaster victims

Listen to my discussion on the amendment with Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network

MEETING WITH IOWANS

In order to deliver results, I know how important it is to listen directly to Iowans' concerns so I can take them to Washington. Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting Northwest Iowa Community College, MMCRU's iTech Center, and Buena Vista University's Ag Experiment Center. I enjoyed learning more about their technical training and agriculture programs!

Click on the pictures below to learn more about each stop:



NWICC



MMCRU



BVU

GETTING COVID-19 VACCINES TO OUR DISTRICT

I'm committed to making sure vaccines are distributed to every corner of our district. Last week, I joined fellow Iowa Representatives Ashley Hinson, Mariannette Miller-Meeks, and Cindy Axne in urging the U.S. Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prioritize Iowa's federally qualified community health centers in the next round of their vaccine program.

Read the full letter by clicking below:

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2021

Mr. Xavier Becerra
Secretary-Designate
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH
Director
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Secretary-Designate Becerra and Dr. Walensky:

We write regarding the Administration's recent announcement of its intention to direct COVID-19 vaccines from the federal stores to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded community health centers. As FQHCs play a critical role in communities across Iowa and the nation, we are heartened by your intention to work directly with them to expand vaccine access. We are also supportive of these vaccine doses being counted separately from the state's regular allocation.

FQHCs keep Iowans healthy, safe, and connected to vital services. While this pandemic has made it abundantly clear that all types of health care providers are heroes, FQHCs play a special and particular role – they reach America's most vulnerable communities. The services FQHCs provide range from primary care to maternal and infant care, from dental hygiene to eye exams, and more. Of note, these centers also bring mental and behavioral health care into communities in dire need of those services, especially during the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FQHCs are remarkably successful not only in offering these services, but in getting vulnerable populations to use care options. This is largely due to the FQHCs' statutorily required presence in medically underserved areas. Importantly, patients view their local FQHC as a comprehensive care stop. FQHCs are a critical part of Iowa's health care network, such as the Crescent Community Health Center in Dubuque, which serves a disproportionate share of Marshallese-speaking constituents, and All Care Health Center in Council Bluffs, which serves many patients experiencing homelessness. These FQHCs are ready to administer vaccines quickly and efficiently to Iowa's most vulnerable populations; some of our Iowa FQHCs have already proven their ability to vaccinate essential workers such as law enforcement. Many of our Iowa FQHCs have also already served as COVID-19 testing locations. Iowans trust their FQHCs and seek them out for care, guidance, and support. They are truly community-based, understanding the unique needs of their patients, whether those needs are transportation and work shift challenges making it difficult to get to an appointment or translation requirements for diaspora populations.

BONUS

It's so great to see Iowa businesses like Pizza Ranch growing and adapting in light of pandemic-related challenges. I'm thankful for all the work they do to support our rural communities. Of course, I'm also very thankful for their delicious cactus bread!



We are government together, and I am here to serve you. Your thoughts, concerns, and comments are very important to me. Always feel free to call (202) 225-4426 or visit my website at feenstra.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rep. Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Rep Feenstra | 1440 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

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