



Iowa House of Representatives

April 28, 2021

To: State Rep. Holly Brink, Chair
House Government Oversight Committee

State Rep. Ruth Ann Gaines, Ranking Member
House Government Oversight Committee

From: State Rep. Chuck Isenhart
Member, House Government Oversight Committee

About: Oversight of Public Health Disaster Emergency Response
and Implementation of the Public Health Modernization Act

Dear Rep. Brink and Rep. Gaines:

I urge you to state your intent to convene the House Government Oversight Committee before the 2022 session of the 89th General Assembly to assess the state's future capacity for infectious disease prevention and response in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

In concert with this investigation, I recommend that the committee evaluate the implementation of the 2009 Public Health Modernization Act, focusing on elements related to infectious disease, as well as population health strategies to promote resilience and equity.

I request that the Oversight Committee consider whether statutory changes, policy/practice improvements and/or expanded financial resources are needed to bolster the capacity of Iowa's public health system, including investments in local public health infrastructure and workforce.

To the extent necessary and possible, the inquiry should appraise the roles of the General Assembly, the Governor and county Boards of Health -- as well as the federal government -- as they employed their respective powers and responsibilities during the state and federal public health disaster emergency, to assess the potential for enhanced coordination and more effective partnerships in the future.

I thank you for your timely response to this request.