

# If a bill you loved didn't survive funnel, understand the process is long

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## Tuesday, March 11

Good morning! Welcome to another week!

Last week marked “funnel week” in the Iowa Legislature. This means most bills needed to be passed through committee in one chamber in order to still be active for this session.

That, of course, isn’t necessarily true. The legislature can get creative and pass anything into law it wants during the session, but the idea of funnel week helps provide more direction anyway.

Last Thursday, the bill banning geoengineering passed through its House Committee. That means the bill is still alive for consideration this session.

There were a couple of bills related to vaccines last week that passed through subcommittee but never received hearings in committee last week. And they weren't alone.

There were a number of bills that are likely dead following their failure to advance through committee last year.

In some cases, that is disappointing as some of those bills were good bills that could have a positive impact on our state. And I know there were a couple of bills that a few of you really, really, really...really wanted to see advance.

And because of that, you are disappointed.

I actually wanted to take time today to encourage people not to give up on those issues and on those bills. Most bills take years to get through the legislature. I know there are still bills being introduced this year that I know were also introduced six years ago.

The process is sometimes super slow.

Here is the reality of the situation — if a bill that you like didn't advance, the reality is more work needs to be done on the front of educating key legislators. The best way for your priority to advance through the process is to convince a few legislators it should be a priority.

This is difficult because for most of us, the issues we really care about, we assume everyone else does. But that just isn't the case.

So keep advocating. Keep educating. Keep showing up. It's a heck of a process, but if you really believe in it, it's worth it.

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